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THE MILITARY SITUATION.

THE EXPEDITION TO WILMINGTON.

THE surprising, brilliant, and unqualified victory on the North Carolina coast by our gallant Army and Navy, is the all-absorbing theme of the week. The official reports of the action have electrified the country with their intelligence. They need only to be accompanied by a compilation from the most trustworthy reports of the spectators of the attack.

On the night of the 5th, and the morning of the 6th of January, the transports designed to coöperate with Admiral PORTER's fleet, then off Beaufort, left Fortress Monroe. They contained the troops which made the former expedition three weeks previous, reinforced by one brigade, about 9,200 in all, under General TERRY: AMES's Second division of the Twenty-fourth corps, and HAWLEY's Second brigade (now under ABBOTT), of TERRY's First division; and PAINE's division of the Twenty-fifth (colored) corps, with MYRICK's and LEE's batteries. At sunset of the 6th, a gale sprang up, which blew with great severity until noon of the 7th; but, fortunately, occasioned no damage. On the 8th, the fleet arrived at Beaufort, N. C., joining the iron-clads. That day, and the 9th and 10th, the joint fleet was detained at Beaufort by contrary winds and other causes, and another severe gale was encountered by it on the 11th. On the morning of Thursday, the 12th, the whole fleet got away, in clear and calm weather, and anchored above Fort Fisher about 11 o'clock at night.

At dawn of day on Friday, the 13th, the fleet started again, and moved down towards Fort Fisher. At 6½ A. M., Admiral PORTER signalled to form line of battle, which was done, the *Brooklyn* leading off her column, and taking position close to the beach, with the other two columns ranged outside, nearly parallel to each other, and to the shore. The order of battle was as follows:

THE INNER COLUMN.

Brooklyn, 26 guns.....	Captain Alden.
Mohican, 7.....	Commodore Ammen.
Tacony, 10.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Truxton.
Kansas, 10.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Watmough.
Unadilla, 7.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Ramsey.
Huron, 4.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Selfridge.
Maumee, 5.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Chandler.
Pawtuxet, 10.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Seward.
Seneca, 4.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Temple.
Pontoon, 10.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Harris.
Yantic, 7.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Howell.
Nereus, 11.....	

THE MIDDLE COLUMN.

Minnesota, 52.....	Commodore Lanman.
Colorado, 52.....	Commodore Thatcher.
Wabash, 45.....	Captain M. Smith.
Susquehanna, 10.....	Commodore Godon.
Powhatan, 21.....	Commodore Schenck.
Junista, 9.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Phelps.
Shenandoah, 10.....	Captain Ridgely.
Ticonderoga, 20.....	Captain Steedman.
Vanderbilt, 15.....	Captain Pickering.
Macdonald, 10.....	Commodore Beaumont.

THE OUTER COLUMN.

Santiago de Cuba, 11.....	Captain Gilson.
Port Jackson, 7.....	Captain B. F. Sands.
Oscoda, 10.....	Commodore Clitz.
Sassacus, 10.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Davis.
Chippewa, 4.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Potter.
Maransan, 4.....	Lieutenant-Com'd'r Young.
R. B. Cuyler, 10.....	Commodore Caldwell.
Rhode Island, 12.....	Commodore Trenchard.
Monticello, 7.....	Lieutenant W. B. Cushing.
Alabama, 10.....	
Quaker City, 7.....	Commodore Spicer.
Keystone State, 15.....	Commodore Rolando.
Montgomery, 6.....	Act'g Vol. Lieut. Dunn.
Iscos, 10.....	Commodore John Guest.

IRON-CLAD COLUMN.

New Ironsides, 20.....	Commodore Radford.
Monadnock, 4.....	Commodore Parrott.
Savona, 2.....	Commodore Colbourn.
Canonica, 2.....	Lieut.-Commodore Belknap.
Mahopac, 2.....	Lieut.-Commodore Weaver.

THE LANDING COLUMN.

A. D. Vance.....	Lieut.-Commodore Upshur.
Governor Buckingham, 6.....	Act'g Vol. Lieut. McDermid.
Gettysburg, 5.....	Lieutenant Lamson.
Tristram Shandy.....	Act'g Vol. Lieut. Green.
Lillian.....	Act'g Vol. Lieut. Harris.
Fort Donelson, 5.....	Act'g Master Frost.
Nansemond, 4.....	Act'g Master Porter.
Wilderness.....	Act'g Master Avery.
Little Ada.....	Act'g Master Crafts.
Republic.....	Act'g Ensign Bennett.
Arles, 7.....	Act'g Vol. Lieut. Wells.

Meanwhile, Admiral PORTER opened the bombardment by sending the iron-clad column, with the *New Ironsides* at its head, directly upon Fort Fisher. "At 7:30 A. M., the forts opened on them as they approached, but they quietly took up their old positions within 1,000 yards of Fort Fisher," and began to fire about 8:30. The Inner Division had meanwhile been shelling the woods (without provoking a reply) near the point selected for landing the troops, about three miles and a half above the fort, near the deserted half-moon battery. The boats of the fleet were then called away for landing the troops, and, starting simultaneously, at 9 o'clock, from all the transports, soon carried them through the surf, some of the men eagerly jumping into the water, waist-deep. The first boats to reach the shore contained a part of the One Hundred and Sixty-ninth New York, and BELL's Third brigade of AMES' division was soon ashore, followed quickly by the First. In about an hour, enough troops were landed to push out a skirmish line, and all the force designed for the attack was ashore before 3 P. M. The proper line was now formed, and our troops retook possession of Half Moon battery.

Before 4, the troops started down the beach towards Fort Fisher, with skirmishers out. The iron-clads had already made sad work with its southern angle, and only one heavy gun responded. At 4.30 P. M., Line No. 1 and Line No. 2 of the fleet opened fire, and commenced a terrific bombardment, completely silencing the fort. About dark, the bombardment ceased, the dense smoke furled off, and the wooden vessels dropped out to their anchorage; but the *Ironsides* and *Monitors* lay all night within 1,000 yards of the fort, and one of the latter within 700, firing a shell about once in ten minutes. At dusk, the troops had paused, out of range of Fort Fisher. Under cover of the darkness, however, they moved on again, and, at 10 P. M., their camp fires showed the long bivouac line across the sand-spit, about two miles from the fort. Their right flank seemed to be well covered by a sort of lagoon, running between it and the woods beyond. The enemy's two gunboats, the *Tallahassee* and the *Chickamauga*, shelled our lines from Cape Fear River.

So ended the first day's operations. Nothing can describe the terrific thunder of the grand bombardment—one incessant crash of heavy guns and broadsides. Every vessel shook with the fearful concussion, while shells from more than 300 guns playing around the fort, made it a fearful hell to its occupants. An observer reckoned that in the splendid eight hours action between the iron-clads and the fort, from eight till four, the former threw in their immense shells at the rate of four per minute, to the number of not less than 2,000 shells. About 300 shells, it is surmised, were thrown in return, leaving their marks on all our iron-clads, but not essentially injuring them. In the grand bombardment lasting from 4.40 P. M. to 6.10 P. M., when more than 300 guns from the wooden ships joined their fire to that of the iron-clads, it is reckoned by one observer, that

four shots were fired by us each second, or more than 20,000 in all. Of course the fort did not reply, and the fleet was uninjured. Admiral PORTER's account of this day's work is terse and descriptive. "On the 14th I ordered all the vessels carrying 11-inch guns to bombard with the *Ironsides*, the *Brooklyn* taking the lead. By sunset the fort was reduced to a pulp. "Every gun was silenced by being injured or covered up with earth, so that they would not work."

Next morning, Saturday, the 14th, was comparatively quiet; and at 8 o'clock the enemy got up his flag again. More troops and the batteries were sent ashore. The enemy, on the evening previous, was strengthened, as General LEE reports, with fresh troops. During the forenoon, a steambot of the enemy, towing a barge with ammunition, on the Cape Fear River, was captured by our forces; but one of his gunboats, coming down, drove our troops away again with some loss. During the morning our troops entrenched themselves with very handsome breastworks, thrown up rapidly and compactly. Dispositions of forces were made so as to prevent an attack in the rear from the direction of Wilmington, and a second line of breastworks was thrown up facing in that direction. With busy work of this sort, and the landing of provisions, and shelling the woods on our right flank, the day passed. Meanwhile, the *Ironsides* and *Monitor* fleet, commencing about noon, kept up a moderate fire on the fort, to which it made little reply. By Saturday evening, TERRY's reconnaissance was completed.

On Sunday, the 15th, the assault was arranged by General TERRY and Admiral PORTER. ABBOTT's brigade and PAINE's colored division, the latter about 4,000 strong, were placed in the entrenchments facing Wilmington; making our rear impregnable, against HOKE's division, which, reported 5,000 strong, threatened us from the direction of Wilmington. AMES' division was drawn up to assault the west end of the fort, the most difficult and arduous point. A column of 1,400 sailors and marines, under Captain BREESE, was detailed from the fleet to assault the sea-front, which had been so terribly demolished by the bombardment that it was thought a lodgment might more easily be effected there. At daybreak, the iron vessels, the *Brooklyn*, and the 11-inch gunboats commenced a terrible fire, under cover of which, AMES moved his men up to within 150 yards of the fort. At 10, all the rest of the fleet joined in the tremendous cannonade, which was kept up, almost without intermission, until 3 P. M., when the ships changed their fire from the path of the assaulting columns to other works. At 3.30 P. M., the signal for the assault was made. The gallant column from the fleet dashed at the sea-front with desperate energy, and gained the parapet. But after a short conflict and heavy loss it was checked and driven back in disorder. When reformed, it was sent to the defensive or Wilmington line, to take the place of ABBOTT's brigade, which had joined AMES. The attack on the sea-front, though a failure, diverted a part of the enemy's attention, and made the attack of the main storming column by so much the easier. Admiral PORTER's fleet, also, aided the assault by a rapid fire in response to a frequent exchange of signals.

Promptly at the word of command, our gallant column of between 3,000 and 4,000 men, principally of the old Tenth corps, rushed upon the works. The enemy's force in the fort was over 2,200 strong. Colonel CURTIS led the attack with his gallant brig-

ade, and, after a splendid assault, effected a lodgment on the west end of the land front. PENNYPACKER instantly followed with his brigade, and then BELL with his. Every one of these leaders fell wounded, the former severely, the second dangerously, and BELL mortally. At 5 o'clock, after the most desperate fighting, foot by foot, and with the severest loss, we got possession of about half the land front. Then ABBOTT came up from the defensive line, the marines taking his place. Once more, the attack went on. At 10 o'clock, after 6½ hours of splendid fighting, the last trenches were cleared of the enemy, and Fort Fisher was ours. Admiral PORTER says:—

The Rebels met us with a courage worthy of a better cause, and fought desperately. About thirty of the sailors and officers succeeded in getting to the top of the parapet amid a murderous fire of grape, canister and musketry. They had planted the flag there, but were swept away in a moment. Others tried to get up the steep parapets. The marines could have cleared the parapet by keeping up a strong fire, but they failed to do so, and the sailors were repulsed. Many a gallant fellow fell trying to emulate his brothers in arms who were fighting to obtain an entrance on the northeast angle, as it appears on our charts. The enemy mistook the seamen's attack for that of the main body of troops, and opposed a most vigorous resistance there. But I witnessed it all, and I think the marines could have made the assault successful. In the meantime our gallant soldiers had gained a foothold on the northeast corner of the fort, fighting like lions, and contesting every inch of the ground. The *Ironclads* and *Monitors* kept storming their shells into the traverses not occupied by our men, but still held by the Rebels. In this way our troops fought from traverse to traverse, from three o'clock in the afternoon until ten at night, when the joyful tidings were signalled to the fleet. We stopped our fire and gave them three of the heartiest cheers I ever heard. It has been the most terrific struggle I ever saw, and there was very much hard labor.

The enemy, of course, fell back to Federal Point, down the peninsula. One brigade followed and captured them. General WHITNEY and Colonel LAMB, the commanders of the fort, with their officers and men—over 1,800 in all—surrendered to us unconditionally about 12 at night. All the works south of Fort Fisher fell also into our hands. The enemy's loss was, first, Fort Fisher and all its chain of out-works, with all their contents—72 guns, some of large calibre and rifled, and one Armstrong gun—and the camp and garrison equipage and stores, including sixteen days' rations: second, the loss of Cape Fear River and its inestimable facilities for running the blockade: third, a garrison of 2,200 men, of whom 400 were killed and wounded, and 1,800 captured. General WHITNEY and Colonel LAMB were wounded. On our side, not a ship nor a transport was lost, and but little damage was done to the fleet. Our loss in gallant officers and men was very large—something over 1,000 in all, of which about 900 fell upon the Army, and 200 on the fleet. Amongst these were the gallant Colonels BELL and MOORE, and Lieutenant-Colonel LYMAN, killed, and Colonels CURTIS, PENNYPACKER, and Lieutenant-Colonel COAN, badly wounded. In the fleet, the gallant Lieutenants PRESTON and PORTER were killed, and Lieutenants LAMSON, BACHE, and others wounded. Two 15-inch guns burst on the monitors, killing and wounding a few men. We grieve to add that, on Monday morning, the magazine in Fort Fisher exploded, probably by accident or neglect, and about 300 of the brigade we had left there as its garrison were killed or wounded.

So fell Fort Fisher. "The capture of this fort" as the *Richmond Whig* says, "is equivalent to the 'closure of the harbor of Wilmington by the enemy's fleet.'" And what the closure of Wilmington harbor is equivalent to, may be judged by the words of another *Richmond* paper, the *Dispatch*, written after BUTLER and WEITZEL had failed, and before PORTER and TERRY had succeeded. The enemy will now try to belittle, as usual, the capture, but out of his own mouth he will be judged:

"The special report of the Secretary of the Treasury in relation to the matter shows that there have been imported into the Confederacy at the ports of Wilmington and Charleston, since October 28, 1864, 8,632,000 pounds of meat, 1,507,000 pounds of lead, 1,933,000 pounds salt, 546,000 pairs of shoes, 316,000 pairs of blankets, 520,000 pounds of coffee, 60,000 rifles, 97 packages of revolvers, 2,639 packages of medicine, 43 cannon, with a large quantity of other articles of which we need make no mention. Besides these, many valuable stores and supplies are brought by way of the Northern lines into Florida by the port of Galveston and through Mexico across the Rio Grande. The shipments of cotton made on Government account since March 1, 1864, amount to \$5,296,000 in specie. Of this, cotton to the value of \$1,500,000 has been shipped since the 1st of July and up to the 1st of December. It is a matter of obsolete impossibility for the Federals to stop our blockade-running at the port of Wilmington. If the wind blows off the coast, the blockading fleet is driven off. If the wind blows landward, they are compelled to haul off to a great distance to escape the terrible sea which dashes on a rocky coast, without a harbor within three days' sail. The shoals on the North Carolina coast are from five to twenty miles wide, and they are, moreover, composed of the most treacherous and bottomless quicksands. The

whole coast is scarcely equalled in the world for danger and fearful appearance, particularly when a strong easterly wind meets the ebb tide. It is an easy matter for a good pilot to run a vessel directly out to sea or into port; but, in the stormy months, from October to April, no blockading vessel can lie at anchor in safety off the Carolina coast. Therefore supplies will be brought in despite the keenest vigilance."

About eleven o'clock on Monday morning a heavy cloud of smoke was observed over Fort Smith, on the south side of New Inlet. The naval officer commanding that station reported that the enemy had fired their barracks and evacuated that fort.

THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

Few operations of importance, except that at Wilmington, remain to be recorded. The very heavy rains which fell for a week in Virginia swelled the James to several feet above its ordinary height, and flooded the low grounds along its banks. The high tides broke through the bulkhead of the unfortunate Dutch Gap Canal, and let in a stream of water several feet deep, washing in some earth, and washing out more. The pontoon bridges at Aiken's Landing and Deep Bottom were both torn away from their moorings, but afterwards replaced. The heavy rains of the 12th and 13th not only filled the James with debris, but badly damaged some of the rifle pits in each Army. Several of the enemy's bomb-proofs, on his left, caved in, on the 12th, killing three men and severely wounding others. The rains also washed down the trestle-work on the Piedmont Railroad, between Reedsville and Benaga, and between Greensboro' and Sepinaw, so that trains cannot pass over that portion of the road. It will require several days to repair the damage done.

On the afternoon of the 13th, our forces renewed with severity the shelling of the Chesterfield batteries, and threw heavy shells also against the enemy's left. The enemy reports constant reinforcements to GRANT coming up James River, and trains arriving day and night along the City Point Railroad to our left, carrying troops and stores there.

On the 11th, a foraging party 250 strong, with 8 wagons, started out on the Jerusalem Plank-road, under Captain PRICE, of General GRIFFIN's staff. About two miles beyond our picket lines, it was surprised and instantly dispersed by an audacious company of mounted men. Captain PRICE was murdered, but his command escaped to camp, with only a few wounded. Another foraging party, which started out a few days earlier, under Captain BENNETT, is supposed to have been captured entire.

THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY.

A few raids by one party or the other, keep the Shenandoah Valley from becoming again peaceful and quiet. MOSBY is recovering from his dangerous wound. He had just been engaged in making up, it is said, an elaborate plan for guerrilla organization and operations in the Valley, when he was wounded. On the 27th ultimo, our cavalry visited Loudoun County, in the neighborhood of Upperville and Middleburgh, and carried off some property of disloyalists. Some arrests were made in the county soon after by another cavalry party. DEVIN's brigade, with cavalry and artillery, appears to have gone into winter quarters near Lovettsville. Early in January, a captain, lieutenant, and seven men of MOSBY's command were captured at the Relay House, on their way to Point of Rocks. Money and valuable papers are said to have been captured upon them. One of the enemy's papers says that, about a week ago, "Captain RICHARDS, of 'Mosby's command, with 69 men, attacked, near Berry's Ferry, 120 Yankees, and, without losing a man, 'captured 7 and wounded between 40 and 50.'"

The First New York and First Virginia cavalry, under Colonel ADAMS of the former, scouted, on the 10th, along the Winchester Pike, passing to Berryville, thence to Milwood, thence to Berry's Ferry. None of the enemy were seen, except a few guerrillas; and the command returned at night. At daybreak, on the 11th, a part of ROSSEN's division surprised our garrison at Beverly, West Virginia; and, after a short skirmish, carried the town. It is said that over 400 of our men were captured, and the rest dispersed. The enemy afterwards moved out to Lewisburgh. A court-martial is to investigate the affair.

THE WESTERN CAMPAIGNS.

Nothing important of late has been heard from THOMAS, who is still organizing his troops at Eastport. SHERMAN, also, at latest accounts, was still in

Savannah, working vigorously, to regulate the affairs of the city, and to prepare his troops for the next campaign. Some splendid reviews have been held by him. The Charleston papers reported, lately, that SHERMAN's advance had crossed New River, on the road to Grahamsville; but the latest story is that our advance has retired from Hardeesville towards the Savannah. Not only are our papers, but the enemy's, are filled with astonishment at the admirable skill and justice of SHERMAN's rule in Savannah. The *Augusta Chronicle* says:—

The most perfect order is maintained in the city. No soldier is allowed to interfere with the citizens in any particular. A citizen was arrested by a drunken soldier a few days since. The citizen knocked the soldier down. The officer of the guard, as soon as he arrived, said nothing to the citizen, but had the soldier taken to the barracks, gagged and soundly whipped for his misbehavior. A drunken soldier, who undertook to create a disturbance recently, and who refused to allow himself to be arrested, was shot down at once by the guard. The soldiers are not allowed under any circumstances whatever to enter private residences. The negroes in most cases are orderly and quiet, remaining with their owners and performing their customary duties. A majority of the citizens have provisions for some time to come, but there is a scarcity of wood, but General SHERMAN has announced that he will soon remedy this last difficulty by getting wood via the Gulf Railway, and hauling it to the citizens. Eleven hundred loaves of good baker's bread, which had been collected for the soldiers of SHERMAN's Army, but for which authorized agents did not call, were on Thursday turned over to the Poor Association of Savannah by the Committee acting in behalf of the Soldiers' Dinner, and were yesterday distributed to the poor of the city. It was truly a kind and providential gift, for the city is entirely out of breadstuffs of every kind.

Secretary STANTON's last dispatch says:—

"General SHERMAN renewed the movement of his forces from Savannah last week. The Fifteenth and Seventeenth corps went in transports to Beaufort on Saturday, the 14th. The Seventeenth corps, under Major-General BLAIR, crossed Port Royal Ferry, and, with a portion of General FOSTER's command, moved on Pocomtogo. General HOWARD, commanding that wing of the Army, reported on Sunday that the enemy abandoned his strong works in our front during Saturday night. General BLAIR's corps now occupies a strong position across the railroad, covering all approaches eastward to Pocomtogo."

Slight skirmishing is going on near Mobile, but nothing important. At the latest dates, our forces, 4,000 strong, were reported by the enemy as impregably entrenched at Franklin Mills, on Dog River. In the late raid of GRIERSON on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, of which nearly 40 miles were destroyed, his loss was 25 killed and 80 wounded. In Colonel ROBINSON's raid on Pollard, Ala., also, our loss was only about 75. Some flags were captured in this affair. Both these raids were described in our last issue.

SOME time since, we undertook to catalogue the more prominent immediate results of the great double campaign of SHERMAN, which that General devised at Atlanta. It was suggested that the impalpable advantages in prospect would prove greater than his captures of cities, forts, guns, and men. The last steamer from Europe brings news that there has been a change in public sentiment with regard to our affairs since receiving the tidings of the victories in the "Department of the Mississippi." Their influence is already obvious in the decline of the Confederate loan, and the advance of United States securities. On this side of the Atlantic, we have startling rumors of peace propositions, coming from quarters too high to be laughed at. Mr. GREELEY's faith that the enemy was really considering the chances of peace, so often ridiculed, is now vindicated in a surprising manner. It is now no longer an affair of an unaccredited set of commissioners to a Niagara conference, but of State legislatures and of the Confederate Congress itself. Several weeks ago, a story was told that, when SHERMAN captured Milledgeville, he was asked if he wished the State House destroyed. He replied that he did not, for a Union legislature would soon want it for its own use. The story may be fictitious, but it illustrates that general's well-known idea that Georgia can be plucked out of the Confederacy, and, even though all alone, be restored to the Union. We must be careful, however, while watching the first indications of the dawn of peace, not to relax any effort for the prosecution of the war. It is disaster in the field which has caused dissension in the councils of the enemy.

VOLUNTEERS for HANCOCK's new corps of veterans, the First corps, will be pleased to hear the report that the corps will be armed with new breech loading rifles, and will wear a new style of equipment; and that each man will have his own name marked on his gun, and will retain it as his own on the expiration of his term of service.

RETALIATION IN CIVIL WAR.

GOOD POLICY RESPECTS HUMANITY.

It is an evidence of human progress in this 19th century, as well as a crowning honor to the people of the Northern States, that the war of the rebellion has been waged by our Government with so little of the reckless barbarity usually accompanying a civil contest. While the Richmond authorities have recalled, by their infamous treatment of our prisoners, all the historic instances of deliberate cruelty to the conquered which blot the world's annals, our Army and our rulers have carried on the conflict with a forbearance from revenge, with an honorable conformity to the usages of war, absolutely unexampled in history. Let us pause for one moment, at some of the more recent examples of intestine war in human history, for comparison, in this respect, with our own. Spain, Naples, Austria and France, blotted out Protestantism for the time being, and damned alike the sovereigns who authorized such barbarities, and all the instruments of priestly and military tyranny, implicating the nations which looked on and abetted the crimes, in the guilt of the immediate actors. Madrid, Naples and Rome, are synonymous with bigotry and religious persecution: Austria with cold-blooded tyranny: anti-evolutionary France, with intolerant ferocity.

People of the present talk of the devastations of the current war. Justly, no doubt; but what are they to the ravages of the civil wars of Germany, when a single night consigned 100 castles and villages to the flames, and the fiercest applications of fire and sword extended with scanty intervals through nearly 30 years, and over all Germany from the Rhine to the Oder and March, from the Baltic to the Lake of Constance and the Danube? What are the Federal ravages, unavoidable, taken all together over a continent, as it were, when compared to the desolation, the twice-repeated ruin of the Palatinate, proper, and the four-fold ruin of the German circles on the Rhine, by the orders of LOUIS XIV., by the "humane" TURENNE, offered a cardinalship for his tender mercies and his perversion, in 1674; by the Dauphin of France, in 1688-9; and by the "paternal" DE LONGUES, in 1693? During these iniquitous hostilities, about 50 proud cities, an "infinitude" of populous villages were laid in ashes; the magnificent residences and the superb mausoleums of princes were burned, thrown down and violated; women subjected to worse than Tartar brutality; a lovely, luxuriant country, the finest territory of Germany, depopulated and laid waste. Well might the French historian exclaim, in narrating these horrors, "What reprisals must we not expect, if the enemy penetrate into France! Good policy respects humanity." What, to continue, are our devastations of Tennessee and Virginia to those of the "French tyranny," the atrocities authorized by Marshal LUXEMBURG, in 1672, in Holland, or to the revengeful ravages of the "honest, philosophical" CATINAT in Piedmont, in 1691-3—or even to the devastation in 1703-4 of the Cevennes, French territory, by the orders of a French, the same most Christian, king, through his civil and military representatives? Our people would scarcely believe with what severity a monarch visited his own most faithful people, simply because they would not believe as to religious matters as he did. They were loyal, patriotic, simple, industrious and willing, but they were Protestants, and LOUIS XIV.'s lieutenant spent \$25,000,000 to ruin and destroy them, besides a sum estimated at a like amount, which the royal treasury disbursed upon the regular armies employed. The history of the persecutions of the Vaudois of Piedmont, have filled many an eye with tears, many a heart with horror, many a brain with projects and vows of vengeance. The sufferings of the Waldenses, horrible as they were, still were trifles to those of the Cevenols or Protestants of Languedoc. Twelve thousand perished in the fires and upon the scaffolds of the place of execution, and eighteen thousand more defending their homesteads. A triangular mountain district, rich in nothing but loyalty, valor and piety, containing 466 villages and hamlets was rendered a desert waste, every building was razed and every inhabitant expelled. Twenty thousand people went forth from comfort and comparative wealth to poverty and exile. A circle, with a radius of 36 to 45 miles, was left literally a howling wilderness. Moreover, when the royal troops, the French, discovered the mountain grottoes, which served as hospitals to the rebels, they slaughtered all, sick, wounded, nurses, attendants, and likewise even all those suspected of furnishing the sick or disabled with supplies or assistance. Yes! in one case the governor of Languedoc walled up the hospital caves, and in recent days when the crumbling walls permitted exploration, the bones of the murdered still lay as they perished to bear witness to the mercy of the most magnificent LOUIS, and of that subordinate, who, for 31 years, never left his jurisdiction, and never rested from his labor of sentencing or execution.

It will be observed, that, while contrasting the conduct of other wars with that of our own, and showing with

how little comparative devastation and cruelty it has been conducted on our part, we have also shown the horrible evils which spring up from the practice of what is known as retaliation. If ever such a policy were advisable, surely it would be justified on our part, after the ferocious treatment of our prisoners by the rebel authorities at Andersonville and elsewhere. The bloody circuit of KIRKS and JEFFREY after Sedgemoor, in 1835; the massacre of Glen-coe, February 13, 1892; even the massacre of Scio, April 11—May 10, 1822; aye, PELISSIER's recent stifling the Arabs to death in the caves of the Atlas, and PRATORIVUS' smoking the Caffres in the caverns of their mountains at the Cape of Good Hope; acts of horrible but impulsive barbarism, find their worthy parallels in the premeditated, cold-blooded devilry evinced in the treatment of our imprisoned soldiers by the rebel authorities. Hypocrites of blood-stained monarchies, hypocrites of Europe, of France, of England, cease to accuse us of severity when your garments are stiff with the blood of victims, and your feet upon piles of the ashes of martyrs and loyal subjects! Never has such forbearance tempted the sword of justice, as since the North rose to restore a compact violated without excuse, by a people whose cruelties have disgraced the name of America.

But while the perpetrators of the horrid crimes at Andersonville deserve all the punishment that the North could inflict, the guilty either in execution, instigation or toleration—unfortunately we cannot yet reach the culpable—indiscriminate severity has never been able either to arrest, cure, or mitigate the horrors of civil war, except by the extinction or expulsion of a population. Reprisals, even on a graduated scale, legitimately applied, seldom accomplished their object. No great civil war was ever successfully combatted except by justice tempered with mercy, or successfully closed except by an act of judicious amnesty. Not by an act of amnesty which permitted the leaders to escape their merited punishment, but one which spared the misled in consideration of that weakness of human nature which permits ignorant men to become the facile dupes of designing villains like JEFFERSON DAVIS and his myrmidons. Neither ST. RUTH, the 13th, or "booted" apostle, nor BARILLE, "the vulture of Languedoc," nor MONTEVEL, insane in his polished ferocity, nor any fiend like the Duke of Alba could appease the insurrection of the Cevennes, the bloodiest civil war on record. But when VILLARS came, with his astute courtesy, his politic moderation, his French affectation of generosity and clemency, he allayed the fever, and calmed, if he did not utterly eradicate the evil. By dividing, he broke the power of the revolt, by sparing, he revived hope and confidence, and achieved a peace which, even if it was no peace to the wronged, accomplished his object, the restoration and strengthening of the royal authority. La Vendée, sabred, shot, decimated, was still fermenting with passion, wild with fury, in arms, unsubdued, when the politic HOCH was sent to supersede the wild demon leaders, civil and military, who had caused so many thousands to perish by the scaffold, by drowning, by steel, by bullet, grape and cannon-shot. Gentle and generous by nature, clement and merciful by reason, forgiving and excusing by policy, he alone accomplished more for the Convention than they could have achieved for themselves with all the military force at their disposal. He disarmed the Breton insurrection, he pacified La Vendée, he restored comparative peace, and "caused fertility, industry" and hope to revive again within the districts wherein retaliation had done its utmost and had failed to destroy individual life and property. Clemency and mercy conquered a belligerent, fanaticized population.

Two illustrations more. In 1695, LOUIS XIV. was yet at the zenith of his glory. VILLEROY, his favorite Marshal, took DEXMUD and DEXNE, in the Netherlands, and, in violation of a convention which had been made for the exchange of prisoners, sent them as prisoners of war into France. This was in July 28, 1695. WILLIAM III. was besieging Namur at this date. On the 2d September, 1695, he took it, and among the trophies was the celebrated BOUYFLERS, Marshal of France, who surrendered on terms. He and his garrison were to be allowed to retire. Now it was sagacious WILLIAM struck home. He retained BOUYFLERS, humiliated at having to give up his sword, and transported with rage at his arrest, as a prisoner until the garrisons VILLEROY had dishonorably sent as captives into France should be liberated. LOUIS was checkmated, he had to yield, and the allied prisoners were set free. Here is an exemplification of the good effects of just and temperate retaliation. Punish the most exalted, strike at the chiefs, spare the poor privates, be gentle to those whose only alternative is to obey.

Again, in April, 1700, the Cevenol Chief, ABRAHAM, beat the Royal Swiss at Saint Fortunat, in the Vivarais on the Rhone. General, afterwards Field-Marshal, the Duke DE ROQUELAURE, commanding-in-chief the Royal troops in Languedoc, together with Lieutenant-General LA LANDE, made arrangements together with Brigadier DE COURTEN, commanding the Swiss troops just beaten, to surround the

insurgent leader. He stood at bay near Saint Pierreville. Brigadier DE COURTEN came up and prepared to attack his positions, to retrieve the honor of his Swiss mercenaries; this COURTEN, who, as their Colonel, commanded the regiment, desired to charge at their head. The Swiss refused to fire! no want of courage, no religious fraternization, for they comprised very few of the same belief, actuated them. Their tacit sympathy arose from generosity of sentiment. ABRAHAM had captured four of them at Saint Fortunat. They expected to be shot in retaliation for the universal merciless shooting of the insurgent prisoners at the hands of the government troops. Instead of killing them, ABRAHAM carried them into his camp, gave them excellent treatment, food without stint, wine—and delicious Rhone wine at that. Set free, they related what had passed to their comrades, and the good-hearted Swiss unanimously resolved not to fire again upon such generous enemies. They reasoned with their simple Swiss astuteness, that the cause of a Rebel for principle was as near to them as that of a King who showed, as was the fact, but little respect for the feelings or sufferings of his troops. They kept their word, and withheld their fire. ABRAHAM perceived their hesitation—"spare the privates" he cried to his marksmen; "pick off the officers!" Like hail the bullets rained on the proud, ferocious leaders. Many fell, the rest retired badly cut up. Then ABRAHAM charged and gained a complete victory. ROQUELAURE, who arrived too late to take part in the engagement, fearing that the Swiss might go further and join the Camisards, withdrew them from the theatre of action, the Vivarais, marched them off to the depots of their battalions, sent them before court martial, and the Swiss were decimated. Such are the results of well-timed generosity. There is no human being, however degraded, in whom there is not a hidden spark of the Divinity. Kindle that into life and the man may be regenerated and converted from a barbarian into a good citizen. A halter to the rebel leaders, but mercy to the multitude misled by their cunning.

PETITION

OF captains, commanders and lieutenant-commanders on the active list of the United States Navy, for a restoration of the pay allowed to their respective grades and ranks prior to the breaking out of the present Rebellion, and of the passage of the act of Congress to establish and equalize the grades of line officers of the United States Navy, approved July 16th, 1862:—

To the Honorable, the Senators and Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled:

Your petitioners, the undersigned captains, commanders and lieutenant-commanders, on the active list of the Navy of the United States, would respectfully represent to your honorable bodies that the pay of their respective grades and duties, as established by law, for a naval peace establishment prior to and at the beginning of the present war with Rebels, was greatly reduced by the act of Congress approved July 16, 1862, which was passed while they, or nearly all of them, were engaged in the arduous duties consequent upon an extended blockade, or in active hostilities with the enemy.

Your petitioners have not, heretofore, complained of the large reduction made to their pay, in addition to the monthly and annual tax upon it, although it has subjected them to great inconvenience and hardships, believing that it was their duty to share the common burden of war with all their fellow-citizens; and although the same act of Congress that made so great a reduction in their pay increased largely the annual pay of all the line officers below them in rank; and subsequent acts of Congress have increased the pay of other officers and employes in the Naval service.

Your petitioners would further respectfully invite the attention of your honorable bodies to the fact that, by the reduction of the previously legalized numbers in the grades of captain and commander in the active list of the Navy, promotion has been virtually stopped, and, at the present rate of advancement, many of your petitioners can never hope to reach even the rank of captain before the age of retirement arrives.

At the date of the passage of the act of July 16, 1862, there were on the active list of the Navy 68 captains and 97 commanders, with only about 75 vessels of war. By the act of July 16, 1862, there were authorized to be on the active list of the Navy 36 captains and 74 commanders, with about 600 vessels of all descriptions.

The aggregate of captains and commanders, as authorized for the United States Naval peace establishment, on the active list, was, with a naval force of about 75 vessels, 165.

The aggregate of rear-admirals, commodores, captains, and commanders, authorized by the act of July 16, 1862, for a naval force of nearly ten times the number of vessels that existed at the breaking out of the Rebellion, and for active war is 137.

Your petitioners, and their families, are ever ready to share in the country's cause every hardship, by taxation or otherwise, which the exigencies of war may demand, but they must be permitted to pray that your honorable bodies will see that that justice which is meted to those who have not served their country so long or periled their lives so often in the defence of its flag, be not withheld from them. They, therefore, respectfully ask your attention to their case, and, if found to be as they believe it to be, a simple act of justice, that so much of the act of Congress to "Establish and equalize the grade of the line officers of the Navy," approved July 16, 1862," as relates to the pay of captains and commanders, and of the pay at sea of lieutenant-commanders (previously recognized as lieutenants commanding), may be repealed so as to restore to their respective

grades and duties the pay to which they were entitled and received prior to the passage of that act.

The undersigned, your petitioners, respectfully ask your attention to the table below, as an illustration of their case, and as in duty bound they will ever pray.

	CAPTAINS.				COMMANDERS.				LIEUT. COM'D'RS.	
	Commanding Squads.	All others at sea.	On shore duty.	On leave or waiting orders.	First 5 years at sea.	Second 5 years at sea.	Third 5 years at sea.	Fourth 5 years at sea.	On leave or waiting orders.	At sea.
Pay per annum as established by law prior to the commencement of the present rebellion....	5000	4200	3600	3000	2250	2150	2050	1950	2250	2500
Pay established by the Act of July 16, 1862.	No provision made.	3500	2800	2100	2500	2240	1600			2343

Those of the three grades who have not signed and forwarded this petition are requested to do so.

MILITARY AND NAVAL AFFAIRS IN CONGRESS.

The subject of arbitrary arrests and punishments has occupied the attention of both Houses of Congress during the past week. In the Senate it was called up by the case of General PAYNE, of Illinois, which awakened a sharp discussion, which terminated however in no action upon the case, which is still in the hands of the Military Committee, to whom was referred the call for the record of the proceedings in the case of General PAYNE. In the House, Mr. GANSON (opp.), of New York, offered the following resolution which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the Military Committee be and they are hereby directed to ascertain and report to this House, as soon as possible, the number of persons now confined in the Old Capitol and Carroll prisons; when such persons were respectively arrested and confined, and upon what charges their arrests were made; whether any without a trial, beyond the time in that respect prescribed by law or by the regulations in the military service; and whether any persons so in prison are confined without any written charges made against them; and whether there are any persons now in said prisons who have not had any trial; if so, report the names of such persons, the time when they were arrested, and the alleged cause of arrest respectively; and that the said Committee be and are hereby authorized to send for persons and papers.

A subsequent motion to reconsider in order to instruct the Committee to inquire into the expediency of the inquiry was laid on the table by a vote of 136 yeas to five nays. The debate it awakened indicated a determination on the part of the House to thoroughly investigate the charges of illegal and arbitrary conduct brought against the Secretary of War. As General GARFIELD said in a speech on the subject, Congress had passed a law for the summary dismissal of officers from the Army—for there were traitors in the Army—and this can enable them to be driven out. But it was afterwards thought by the House of Representatives that the law might be safely repealed. This law was mischievous. If an officer could now be dismissed without trial, merely on the recommendation of his superior officer, it had the tendency to make the subordinate a sycophant and toady. The Senate, however, had not yet acted upon the bill. It had always been the law that when an officer was arrested and confined for eight days, the charges against him must be put into his hands. As to the prisoners in the Old Capitol, one man, a major, says he has been confined five months, and has tried in vain to learn for what cause he is detained. Swift vengeance has fallen upon him like a thunderbolt from a clear sky. Similar cases are numberless, where one man calling himself a colonel or agent of the War Department, lays his hands on persons and thrusts them into prison; and the victims are kept there until the same agent of the War Department or some other power releases them. If we are not men in our places, let the War Department do as it pleases. He did not say the War Department was responsible for these abuses or knew them. But they might be traced to its subordinates. He made no accusation. The business of the House was to see that the laws were respected, and to stand up for men who have no friends at court.

In the Senate Mr. WILSON, from the Military Committee, reported the joint resolution to authorize and direct an inventory of the articles in the arsenals of the United States, with the following amendment as a substitute:—

That the Secretary of War be and is hereby directed to cause a strict inspection to be made of the Quartermaster's Department, as soon as practicable after the passage of this resolution, and a comparison to be made between the reports of the officers in charge of the Quartermaster's depots at New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Louisville, and an account to be rendered of the articles actually on hand.

This resolution was passed with an amendment instructing the Secretary of the Navy to cause all naval storekeepers to make a return of all articles in their possession. Resolutions were passed for the printing three thousand copies of the Naval Register, inquiring into the cause of the delay in the publication of the report of the operations of the Army and of the Army Register and other public documents, directing the Committee on the Conduct of the War to inquire into the causes of the failure at Fort Fisher. Mr. BROWN, from the Military Committee, reported a bill to repeal an act to provide for the removal of the United States arsenal from St. Louis and the sale of the land on which it is located, which was ordered to be printed. Mr. HOWARD (rep.), of Michigan, presented a petition from ex-Surgeon-General HAMMOND, complaining that injustice was done him in the court-martial before which he was tried recently, and asking Congress to inquire into this matter before confirming his successor. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee. A petition asking for a ship canal across Niagara Falls on the American side, and for an increase of Army officer's pay, and a memorial of medical storekeepers of the Army, asking that they have the rank and pay of surgeons, were referred to the Military Committee. The Senate ratified the notice given by the President to Great Britain of the termination of the treaty of 1817, limiting the naval force on the lakes.

The House amended the Military Appropriation bill by repealing the section in the Appropriation bill of last year which forbade the re-admission of cadets found deficient, except on recommendation of the Academic Board. The

effect of the amendment is to restore to the Secretary of War the power of restoration in the case of meritorious cadets. A bill was introduced providing for a donation of public lands to the several States and Territories, to the extent of thirty thousand acres for each Senator, Representative and delegate, for the founding of homes for disabled soldiers and seamen, and for the support and education of the orphan children of deceased soldiers and seamen; and a bill, which was referred to the Military Committee, increasing the pay and emoluments of provost-marshal to those of a major of cavalry, and providing that they shall receive commutation for transportation, forage, fuel and quarters.

GENERAL SHERMAN ON THE REBELLION.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI IN THE FIELD, SAVANNAH, Ga., Jan. 8, 1865.

N. W. —, Esq., County —, Ga.:

DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 3d instant is received, and in answer to your inquiries, I beg to state I am merely a military commander, and act only in that capacity; nor can I give any assurances or pledges affecting civil matters in the future. They will be adjusted by Congress when Georgia is again represented there as of old.

Georgia is not out of the Union, and therefore the talk of "reconstruction" appears to me inappropriate. Some of the people have been and still are in a state of revolt; and as long as they remain armed and organized, the United States must pursue them with armies, and deal with them according to military law. But as soon as they break up their armed organizations and return to their homes, I take it they will be dealt with by the civil courts. Some of the Rebels in Georgia, in my judgment, deserve death, because they have committed murder, and other crimes, which are punished with death by all civilized governments on earth. I think this was the course indicated by General WASHINGTON, in reference to the Whiskey Insurrection, and a like principle seemed to be recognized at the time of the Burr conspiracy.

As to the Union of the States under our Government, we have the high authority of General WASHINGTON, who bade us be jealous and careful of it, and the still more emphatic words of General JACKSON, "The Federal Union, 'it must and shall be preserved.'" Certainly Georgians cannot question the authority of such men, and should not suspect our motives, who are simply fulfilling their commands. Wherever necessary, force has been used to carry out that end; and you may rest assured that the Union will be preserved, cost what it may. And if you are sensible men you will conform to this order of things or else migrate to some other country. There is no other alternative open to the people of Georgia.

My opinion is that no negotiations are necessary, nor commissioners, nor conventions, nor anything of the kind. Whenever the people of Georgia quit rebelling against their Government and elect members of Congress and Senators, and these go and take their seats, then the State of Georgia will have resumed her functions in the Union.

These are merely my opinions, but in confirmation of them, as I think, the people of Georgia may well consider the following words referring to the people of the rebellious States, which I quote from the recent annual message of President LINCOLN to Congress at its present session:

They can at any moment have peace simply by laying down their arms and submitting to the national authority under the Constitution. After so much, the Government could not, if it would, maintain war against them. The loyal people would not sustain or allow it. If questions should remain, we would adjust them by the peaceful means of legislation, conference, courts and votes. Operating only in constitutional and lawful channels, some certain and other possible questions are and would be beyond the Executive power to adjust, as, for instance, the admission of members into Congress and whatever might require the appropriation of money.

The President then alludes to the general pardon and amnesty offered for more than a year past, upon specified and more liberal terms, to all except certain designated classes, even these being "still within contemplation of 'special clemency,'" and adds:

"It is still so open to all, but the time may come when 'public duty shall demand that it be closed, and that in 'lieu more vigorous measures than heretofore shall be 'adopted.'"

It seems to me that it is time for the people of Georgia to act for themselves, and return, in time, to their duty to the Government of their fathers.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. T. SHERMAN, Major-General.

BURSTING OF THE PARROTT GUNS.

It has been said that the bursting of the Parrott guns was due to carelessness in cleaning them; but we cannot believe the story. The Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance had months ago called the attention of the Navy to this matter, in the orders given below, and the guns were under the charge of careful and experienced officers:

BUREAU OF ORDNANCE, NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, Dec. 29, 1863.

Circular.

The Bureau desires to impress upon all officers who may be placed in charge of naval batteries on shore, whether co-operating with the Army or otherwise, the importance of exercising great care to prevent sand or dirt from being blown into the muzzles of rifled guns, and the exposure of rifle projectiles to sand or dirt before loading.

To guard against the drifting or whirling of sand into the bore, after the piece has been sponged and cleaned, a mask of cloth or canvas should immediately be placed over the face of the muzzle; and after the projectile is introduced, the same course should be adopted until the word "ready" is given, when the mask is to be withdrawn.

H. A. WISE, Chief of Bureau.
BUREAU OF ORDNANCE, NAVY DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON CITY, July 9, 1863.

Circular.

In order to insure greater accuracy of fire from rifle guns of the Navy, the Bureau directs:

1st. That the base of every rifle projectile, especially the Parrott shall be thickly greased before entering it into the gun. For this purpose common pork lard, prepared by several washings in hot water, may be used.

2d. That the bores of all guns shall be frequently washed, the

grooves of rifled guns cleaned of all residuum and dirt, and a moist sponge invariably used.

The attention of commanding officers is especially called to the requirements of this Circular; and the Bureau desires that the action of Parrott's and other rifle projectiles fired under the above conditions may be carefully observed and reported; for it is believed that nearly all the failures in actual service result from the grooves being filled, after a few rounds, with a hardened residuum of powder.

H. A. WISE, Chief of Bureau.

OBITUARY.

MAJOR DAVID F. COLE.

HEADQUARTERS, 107th REG'T, U. S. COLORED INFANTRY, IN THE FIELD, Va., January 9, 1865.

At a meeting of the officers of this regiment, called in consequence of the death of our lamented friend and brother officer, Major David F. Cole, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Almighty God, in His divine wisdom has deemed proper to remove from our midst, after a brief illness, the highly esteemed, respected and much beloved Major D. F. Cole, therefore, be it

Resolved, That in his death the service has lost one of its most valuable and efficient officers; society one of its brightest gems. Though our association with him has been brief, yet in that short period we learned to love him for the noble qualifications of mind and soul that he possessed. But he is gone, as the true man and the patriot goes, having won a prouder badge of distinction by his noble and exalted manhood, than any scraps of tinsel ever conveyed. As the bright glittering star fades away in the sunlight of the morning, so has our dear friend and companion in arms passed away forever into the sunlight of eternity.

Resolved, That we condole with, and tender our deep sympathy to his bereaved family and friends, trusting that a kind Providence, in His tender mercy, will soften their grief and soothe their sorrow.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be presented to the family of the deceased, and furnished for publication to the *Cleveland Herald and Morning Leader*, and to the *UNITED STATES ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL*.

Colonel WILLIAM H. REYNOLDS, Jr., President.

Lieutenant ELLIS T. LAMBERTON, Secretary.

LIST OF DEATHS

In the Navy of the United States, which have been reported to the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Navy Department, during the week ending January 14, 1865:

Maser Hand, Landsman, December 27, 1864, Naval Hospital Memphis.
George Jackson, (negro), First Class Boy, December 30, 1864, Naval Hospital, Memphis.
John Lawrence Fox, Surgeon, December 17, 1864, Roxbury, Mass.
Adam Barley, Coxswain, December 13, 1864, U. S. steamer *St. Marys*.
Isaac Underhill, Landsman, December 24, 1864, Newburgh, New York.
P. McCauley Brower, Acting Assistant Paymaster, December 26, 1864, U. S. steamer *A. D. Vance*.
Daniel Lester, Acting Ensign, January 2, 1865, Naval Hospital, New York.
Jerry P. Grove, Private, Marine, January 8, 1865, U. S. steamer *North Carolina*.
Henry Baker, Ordinary Seaman, January 4, 1865, U. S. steamer *New Ironsides*.
Alexander Brown, Landsman, January 6, 1865, U. S. steamer *Roanoke*.
David Howell, Pensioner, January 9, 1865, Naval Asylum.
Charles Henry, Ordinary Seaman, December 10, 1864, U. S. steamer *Kensington*, at sea.
Thomas McDonnell, Seaman, December 8, 1864, U. S. Army General Hospital, Hilton Head, S. C., U. S. steamer *Saratoga*.
William Pitt, Seaman, December 24, 1864, Marine Hospital, Key West.
John Morrison, Seaman, January 3, 1865, Marine Hospital, Key West.
George G. Coffin, Acting Ensign, October 11, 1864, U. S. steamer *Owasco*.
John Girard, First Class Boy, December 10, 1864, U. S. Tug *Bayley*.
William C. Russell, Landsman, December 10, 1864, U. S. Tug *Bayley*.
William F. Gragg, Surgeon's Steward, December 24, 1864, Bedford Mass.
John Mentor, Landsman, January 2, 1865, U. S. bark, *Restless*.
John Lang, Gunner's Mate, January 6, 1865, U. S. steamer *General Putnam*.
William T. Wiley, Landsman, January 5, 1865, Naval Hospital, New York.
Harrison Lampler, Boy, January 6, 1865, Naval Hospital, New York.

VARIOUS NAVAL MATTERS.

The iron-clad *Camanche*, 2, is to make her trial trip from San Francisco this week.

The side-wheel steamer *De Soto*, 10, arrived at Baltimore on Thursday, January 12th, from the Portsmouth Yard, for the purpose of receiving new boilers.

A PATRION very numerous signed by the citizens of Chelsea, Mass., and endorsed by the city government, has been forwarded to President Lincoln, for the exchange of George H. Rice, of Chelsea, a prisoner in Texas, where he has been confined for two years. He was acting master on the ship *Morning Light*, and distinguished himself on several occasions.

The gunboat *Rattler*, was destroyed by fire on the Mississippi River on the 30th ult., by a party of Rebels. During a severe storm she broke from her moorings between Natchez and Vicksburg, drifted about for some time, and finally grounded. A gang of guerrillas discovered her in this situation, when they boarded and set fire to her. She was burned to the water's edge.

The prize steamer *Julia*, Acting-Master Wm. Barrymore, which arrived at New York on Sunday evening from Norfolk, was captured December 23d, five miles North of Cape Roman, by the United States steamer *Acacia*. She was from Charleston, with a cargo of cotton, bound to Nassau, N. P. She is an iron side-wheel steamer of about 250 tons, built in Glasgow, in 1863.

Two large delegations, representing Chicago and Milwaukee, have arrived in Washington, for the purpose of securing the establishment of a Navy Yard on Lake Michigan. The recent complication of affairs between the United States and the British Provinces has afforded a long sought opportunity for communities contiguous to the lakes to operate upon Congress in favor of their interests.

On the night of the 28th ult., the blockade-running schooner *Belle*, laden with one hundred and twenty bales of cotton, was cut out from the harbor of Galveston, Texas, by a boat's crew from the United States steamer *Virginia*, in charge of Acting-Ensign Blume. At the time the *Belle* was lying within five hundred yards of the guard ship. This, as well as shore batteries and the Rebel forts, were passed without caus-

ing any alarm, and the prize arrived alongside the *Virginia* before the enemy were aware of the nature of the movement. A few months previous, Acting-Ensign Blume escaped from Galveston, where he was confined as a prisoner of war.

Information has been received at the Navy Department from Acting Master Gillespie, of the U. S. bark *Brasiliera*, on duty in St. Simon's Sound, Ga., that the boats of that vessel have made several excursions inland, destroying salt works, consisting of ten kettles, of 700 gallons each; 12 kettles, of 500 gallons each; 20 pans, 4 by 6 feet, and 300 bushels salt. The boats also liberated 30 negroes, and captured a number of Confederate prisoners. The salt works were situated some 15 miles up Turtle River, on the creeks leading into Buffalo swamps. The enemy's force in that portion of the country consists of 100 Confederate soldiers and 75 militia men.

A letter from an officer of the screw steamer *Iroquois*, 9, states that as that vessel approached the harbor of Rio Janeiro, on the 13th of October, a boat came outside to board her, under the impression that she might be the *Wachusett*. As they passed Fort Santa Cruz the garrison was at the guns ready for action. The reception of the officers of the *Iroquois* by the Brazilian authorities was not only civil but cordial; salutes were exchanged with the city and Naval authorities, and there was a manifest desire to show a good feeling towards the United States. The *Iroquois* was to have proceeded from Rio to Montevideo, where hostilities were imminent between Brazil and the Banda Oriental.

The captors of the prize steamer *Lillian* have had a somewhat protracted legal contest to determine as to their respective claims to a share in the prize money. An attempt was made to rule out the officers and crew of the United States steamer *Massachusetts*, Lieutenant West, commanding, on the ground that she was not in signalling distance when the capture was made. The matter was submitted to Prize Commissioner Flanders, who, after a thorough examination of it, has reported in favor of the claim put in by the officers and crew of the *Massachusetts*. His decision is based on the fact, clearly established, that the *Massachusetts* was engaged in the chase of the *Lillian*. The large amount involved makes the decision of considerable interest to the parties concerned.

At the Brooklyn Navy Yard work is being rapidly pushed forward on the *Madawaska* and preparations are making for her launch. The sloop-of-war *Pensacola*, having been thoroughly overhauled and planked as far as possible while lying in the water, has been taken into the dry dock to have her lower planking taken off and replaced. The *Miantonomah*, wooden Monitor, has returned to the Yard from New York. The *Julia*, a captured blockade-runner, arrived on the 16th. She is a fine Clyde built fast sailing iron steamer, of two hundred tons burthen. Her cargo consists of over four hundred bales of upland cotton, and both ship and cargo are in excellent condition. She is a prize to the *Acacia*, Acting-Master Barrymore, commanding. The *Julia* sailed on Tuesday for Boston. The other departures of the week are the *Lenapee*, *Muscota* and *State of Georgia*. The supply steamer *Union* sailed Friday morning for Key West and the *Newbern*, supply steamer, will leave on the 28th for Fortress Monroe.

In a communication from the Secretary of the Navy, responding to the resolution of the House, he says the exchange of prisoners belongs both to the Army and Navy. It is a matter which has been and is now under the control of the military authorities. An attempt was made by the Navy Department during the Summer of 1864 to effect an exchange of Naval prisoners, but exception was taken to distinct Naval action. With this exception, the action of the Navy Department has not extended further than to make propositions and suggestions for the exchange of Naval prisoners, and to submit to the War Department or the Commissioner of Exchange lists of such prisoners in the hands of the Rebels. Those by whom the matter of exchange has been controlled are cognizant of the measures that have been taken to exchange such officers and men belonging to the Navy now held prisoners by the Rebels.

Lieutenant-Commander George Brown, of the steamer *Itasca*, off Cuba, Texas, reports to the Navy Department that on the 29th of December chased and drove ashore a schooner of 100 tons. She was afterwards destroyed. On the 30th of December, captured the English schooner *Carrie Mair*, while attempting to run the blockade. She was sent to New Orleans for adjudication. On the 8th of December, chased and ran ashore the sloop *Mary Ann*, of Galveston. She had a cargo of 21 bales of cotton, which was sent to New Orleans for adjudication. The Department has also received intelligence from Commander Woolsey, of the steamer *Princess Royal*, off the coast of Mexico, of the capture, on the 27th of December, of the English schooner *Flash*, with a cargo of 41 bales of cotton. The captain confessed that she was from Galveston and bound for Tampico. She was sent to New Orleans for adjudication.

This Philadelphia *Ledger* says the unfavorable weather of the past and present month has retarded the work on the iron-clad *Shackamaxon*, which is building at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. The frame of this vessel, which is of great strength, was finished a short time ago, and the planking was commenced, but as the work is done in the open air, but little progress has been made. Judging by the length of time consumed on the *Tunawanda*, of similar construction with the *Shackamaxon*, but not so large, before she was ready for planking, the completion of the *Shackamaxon* need not be looked for during the present year. Considerable progress has been made on the gunboat in the small ship-house, and she will be ready for launching in a couple of months. The frigate *Neshamony*, in a large ship-house, will be launched about the close of February. Two other vessels are to be built at the Yard in the course of the coming Spring and Summer, but the frames will not be put up until those now on the stocks are launched.

The steam sloop-of-war *San Jacinto*, Captain R. W. Meade, commanding, was lost on the morning of the 1st inst., on a reef off No-Name Key, on the Bahama Banks. The day previous to her wreck she had been chasing a blockade-runner, which escaped by reaching neutral waters. Darkness coming on, the *San Jacinto* stood in shore with the hope that during the night the blockade-runner would stand out for the Hole-in-the-Wall. The night being very dark, and the current uncertain, the vessel overran her reckoning, and instead of being twenty miles from shore, as was supposed by the commanding officer, she was close on the reef, which she struck at 12:40 o'clock A.M. Every effort was made to get her off by running anchors out, but a heavy gale setting in from the eastward, frustrated all attempts, and at 10 o'clock the next day she "billed"—her sides being crushed in. The captain finding it impossible to save the ship, turned his attention toward saving the lives of the crew and the public property. With his boats and the assistance of the wreckers who had congregated around the vessel, he managed to land his crew without loss of life. He also succeeded in saving the guns and most of the stores, consisting of sails, rigging and provisions. Soon after the accident the captain dispatched a smack to Nassau, informing the United States Consul of his condition. The English Naval authorities, being informed of the circumstances, sent a steam sloop-of-war to the assistance of the *San Jacinto*. When the

news reached Key West the gunboat *Honduras* was immediately dispatched to render what assistance she could. The *San Jacinto* was wrecked near the same spot where the sloop-of-war *Adirondack* was lost about two years ago, and probably from the same cause. The *San Jacinto* was a screw steam sloop-of-war of the second class. She was built in 1850 at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and made her first cruise to the Mediterranean. She was afterward sent to Havana in anticipation of trouble with Spain, in consequence of the *Black Warrior* affair. Subsequently she went to China, bearing the pennant of Commodore Armstrong. After this she cruised on the coast of Africa. Returning from that station under the command of Commodore Wilkes, she overhauled the English mail steamer *Trent*, and took from that vessel the Rebel Commissioners, Sidel and Mason. Since that time she has been variously employed, mostly in cruising to intercept blockade-runners, in which duty she was eminently successful. At the time of her loss she was the flagship of the East Gulf blockading squadron, having successively borne the flags of Admirals Lardner, Bailey and Stribling.

ORDERS AND DIRECTIONS TO QUARTERMASTERS.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, JANUARY 6, 1865.

General Orders No. 3.

The following memorandum of Orders and Instructions during the month of December, 1864, is published for the information of officers in the Quartermaster's Department.

Brevet Brigadier-General, Acting Quartermaster General.

ORDERED.

Captain J. R. Del Vecchio, to report in person to the Commanding General, and in person to the Chief Quartermaster Department of the Cumberland, for assignment to duty.

Captain W. J. Colburn, to report in person, without delay, to the Commanding General, and to the Chief of Artillery Department of the Cumberland, for assignment to duty as Quartermaster of the artillery in that department.

Captain R. R. Corson, to report in person, without delay, to Major-General Hancock, United States volunteers, commanding First Army corps, for assignment to duty as Quartermaster of the Sixth division of that corps.

Captain J. R. Del Vecchio, to report in person to Brigadier-General Allen, Senior Quartermaster Valley of the Mississippi, at Louisville, Kentucky, for assignment to duty.

Captain A. V. Barringer, having reported in arrest to the Quartermaster-General, will proceed to Annapolis, Maryland, to await further orders. He will report on his arrival to Brigadier-General Graham, United States volunteers, and by letter to the Adjutant-General.

Captain C. S. McEntee, to report in person, without delay, to Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. Sawtelle, Chief Quartermaster, and by letter to the Commanding General Military Division of the West Mississippi for assignment to duty.

Captain G. W. Mason, to report in person, without delay, to the Chief Quartermaster of the Armies operating against Richmond for assignment to duty.

Captain James Todhunter, to report in person to the Chief Quartermaster Armies operating against Richmond for assignment to duty.

Captain M. T. Sappington, to report in person to the Chief Quartermaster of the Armies operating against Richmond, for assignment to duty.

Captain William Holden, to report in person to Brevet Brigadier-General Stewart Van Vliet, Quartermaster United States Army, at New York city, for assignment to duty.

Captain A. B. Dunham, having reported at these headquarters for assignment to duty, in compliance with Special Orders No. 348, dated Adjutant-General's Office, October 15, 1864, will report to the Chief Quartermaster Department of the Gulf, for assignment to duty in the District of West Florida and Southern Alabama.

Captain F. J. Crilly, in pursuance of authority from the Secretary of War, dated Washington, District of Columbia, December 8, 1864, is directed to assume charge temporarily of all disbursements for United States Military Railroad at Nashville, Tennessee, relieving both Captain A. Eddy, A. Q. M., and Colonel J. C. Craze, Inspector Quartermaster's Department, of their duties and the funds and property now in their hands.

Captain George Q. White, late Chief Quartermaster Mississippi Marine Brigade, having reported at these headquarters for duty, is hereby ordered to report to the Chief Quartermaster Department of the Gulf, for assignment to duty in that department.

Captain J. M. Robertson, to report by letter to Colonel J. A. Ekin, Chief Quartermaster Cavalry Bureau, for assignment to duty as Inspector of Horses.

Captain James Galt, leave of absence for ten days, with permission to remain in Washington city, District of Columbia, at the expiration of which to report in person to Commanding General and the Chief Quartermaster Sixth Army Corps, for assignment to duty.

M. S. K. W. G. Huges, to report in person, without delay, to Major C. W. Thomas, Acting Chief Quartermaster Department of the South, at Hilton Head, South Carolina, for assignment to duty at that place.

M. S. K. John F. Rodgers, to report in person, without delay, to the Chief Quartermaster Department of the Gulf, at New Orleans, Louisiana, for assignment to duty at that place.

Captain Prosper Schubert, to report in person to Brevet Major-General Ingalls, Chief Quartermaster armies operating against Richmond, at City Point, Virginia, for assignment to duty.

Captain A. Shimmel, to report in person to the Chief Quartermaster, and by letter to the Commanding General Department of the South, for assignment to duty.

The following officers will report in person, without delay, to the Chief Quartermaster of the armies operating against Richmond, for assignment to duty:

Captain J. W. Pearman, A. Q. M. volunteers;
Captain A. H. Comstock, A. Q. M. volunteers;
Captain H. H. Gillum, A. Q. M. volunteers;
Captain J. H. Ball, A. Q. M. volunteers;
Captain Amos Webster, A. Q. M. volunteers.

The following officers will report in person, without delay, to Brigadier-General Ingalls, Chief Quartermaster armies operating against Richmond, for assignment to duty:

Captain M. H. Alberger, A. Q. M. volunteers;
Captain J. R. Webster, A. Q. M. volunteers;
M. S. R. A. W. Norcross, to report in person, without delay, to Captain John W. McKim, A. Q. M. of volunteers, at Boston, Massachusetts, for assignment to duty.

Captain A. S. Carmer, to report by letter to the Commanding General and to the Chief Quartermaster Army of James, for assignment to duty.

Captain M. D. Wickersham, to report by letter to the Commanding General and to the Chief Quartermaster Army of Cumberland, for assignment to duty.

The following officers will report in person to the Commanding General and to the Chief Quartermaster Army of the James, for assignment to duty with Brigadier-General Birney, United States volunteers:

Captain George W. Carpenter, A. Q. M. of volunteers;
Captain S. Harrod, A. Q. M. of volunteers.

Captain James C. Slight, to report in person to the Chief Quartermaster armies operating against Richmond, for assignment to duty.

The following officers will at once report by letter to the Commanding General and to the Chief Quartermaster Military Division of the West Mississippi, for assignment to duty:

Captain T. F. Purnell, A. Q. M. volunteers;
Captain R. S. Coverdale, A. Q. M. volunteers.

Captain George Isenstein, to report by letter to Brevet Brigadier-General McCallum, General Manager and Superintendent United States military railroads at Washington, D. C., for assignment to duty.

Captain H. S. Clegg, to report in person to the Commanding General and to the Chief Quartermaster Military Division of the Mississippi, at Savannah, Georgia, for assignment to duty.

Captain John H. James, to report at once by letter to the Commanding General, and in person to Brevet Brigadier-General Donaldson, Chief Quartermaster Department of the Cumberland, Nashville, Tennessee, for assignment to duty.

Captain A. Mason, to report by letter to the Commanding General and to the Chief Quartermaster Military Division of West Mississippi, for assignment to duty.

The following officers will report in person to the Commanding General and to the Chief Quartermaster Department of Arkansas, for assignment to duty:

Captain J. R. Whitcomb, A. Q. M. volunteers;
Captain J. Q. Churehill, A. Q. M. volunteers;

Captain J. C. Hayes, A. Q. M. volunteers.

Captain A. Skinner, to report by letter to the Commanding General and the Chief Quartermaster Department of the Cumberland, for assignment to duty.

Captain Lawrence J. J. Nissen, having reported for duty in this Department, will proceed to Fort Craig, New Mexico, and relieve Captain Herman Miller in his duties at that post.

Captain C. A. Reynolds, to report at once to Wilmington, Delaware, and report for examination to Major-General Franklin, United States volunteers, President of the Retiring Board, convened by Special Orders No. 427, December 2, 1864, from this office.

ASSIGNED.

Brevet Brigadier-General L. C. Easton—By direction of the President, Brevet Brigadier-General L. C. Easton, United States Army, is assigned to duty according to his brevet rank of brigadier-general, to date from September 17, 1864.

Brevet Brigadier-General Charles Thomas—By direction of the President, Brevet Brigadier-General Charles Thomas, United States Army, is assigned to duty according to his brevet rank of brigadier-general, to date from July 5, 1864, and will be paid accordingly.

Captain R. T. Coverdale, pursuant to orders from the Major-General Commanding in the field, is assigned to duty at Headquarters Military Division Mississippi, Nashville, Tennessee, to take effect from September 23, 1864.

Captain H. L. Jones, lately attached to Nineteenth Army corps, is assigned to duty with the First brigade reserve corps, Military Division West Mississippi, and will report in person to Brigadier-General M. K. Lawler, commanding brigade at Memphis, Tennessee.

RELIEVED.

Captain J. M. Robertson, relieved from duty at St. Louis, Missouri, as Inspector of Horses, and will proceed at once to join his battery, B, in the Middle Military Division.

Captain U. S. Lowe, relieved from special duty with the Assistant to the Provost Marshal-General at Elmira, New York, and will report in person to the Quartermaster-General, United States Army, for orders.

Lieutenant Colonel John G. Chandler, relieved from duty as Chief Quartermaster reserve corps (late Nineteenth Army corps) of the Military Division of West Mississippi, and will report by letter to the Quartermaster-General of the Army for orders.

Captain Harry Brownson, relieved from duty in Department of the East, and will report in person to Brigadier-General Ingalls, Chief Quartermaster armies operating against Richmond, at City Point, Virginia, for assignment to duty.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

Major J. H. Tallman, for fifteen days.

Captain C. H. Gallagher, for two days, with permission to visit Washington city, D. C.

Captain John Stewart, for twenty days, with permission to proceed beyond the limits of this Military Division, and with leave to apply to the War Department for an extension of twenty days, which is hereby recommended.

Colonel George V. Rutherford, for three days from the 24th instant.

Captain Charles E. Russ, for twelve days.

Captain A. J. Lloyd, for seventy days from December 20, 1864, to enable him to take his seat in the Legislature of the State of Missouri, of which he is a member.

First Lieutenant Horatio Pitcher, 1st Maine heavy artillery, for ten days.

Colonel W. H. Owen, for twenty days, to date from December 16, 1864.

Brevet Brigadier-General Stewart Van Vliet, permission to visit Washington, District of Columbia, for one day.

Captain H. R. Pierson, for twenty days, on surgeon's certificate of disability.

Captain Jerome Bradley, extended for twenty days.

ORDERS AMENDED OR REVOKED.

Captain E. M. Greene—Special Orders No. 199, Paragraph one, current series, from Headquarters Military Division West Mississippi, is, upon the recommendation of the Chief Quartermaster of the division, so far modified as to permit Captain Elias M. Greene, A. Q. M. volunteers, to proceed to New York city, there to await the action of the War Department upon his tender of resignation.

Captain A. V. Barringer—So much of Special Orders No. 431, December 5, 1864, Adjutant-General's Office, as relates to Captain A. V. Barringer, A. Q. M. United States Army, is hereby amended so as to read "Captain A. V. Barringer, A. Q. M. volunteers."

Captain T. R. Dudley—So much of General Orders No. 843, Adjutant-General's Office, October 12, 1864, as relates to Captain T. R. Dudley, A. Q. M. volunteers, is hereby amended so as to read "Captain T. R. Dudley, A. Q. M. volunteers."

Captain John J. McCallum—So much of Special Orders No. 371, August 15, 1864, Adjutant-General's Office, as directed Captain John J. McCallum to report in person to Captain Lee, at Detroit, Michigan, for temporary duty, is revoked, and he will report to the Commanding General and to the Chief Quartermaster Northern Department for assignment to permanent duty at Johnson's Island, Sandusky, Ohio.

Captain R. P. Johnson—So much of Special Orders No. 400, November 16, 1864, Adjutant-General's Office, as directs Captain R. P. Johnson to report in person to the Chief Quartermaster, and by letter to the Commanding General Department of Cumberland, for assignment to duty, is hereby suspended twelve days.

Captain J. G. McNutt—So much of Special Orders No. 271, August 15, 1864, Adjutant-General's Office, as directed Captain J. G. McNutt to report in person to the Commanding General and to the Chief Quartermaster Northern Department for assignment to duty at Johnson's Island, is revoked, and he will report in person to the Commanding General and to the Chief Quartermaster Northern Department, for assignment to duty.

Captain William Holden—Paragraph 19 of Special Orders, No. 442, December 12, 1864, Adjutant-General's Office, directing Captain William Holden, A. Q. M. of volunteers, to report in person to Brevet Brigadier-General Van Vliet, Chief Quartermaster New York city, for assignment to duty, is hereby revoked, and he will report in person to Colonel Herman Biggs, Depot Quartermaster at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to relieve Captain W. W. Van Ness, A. Q. M. of volunteers, in his duties at that place. On being relieved Captain Van Ness will report in person to Brevet Brigadier-General Van Vliet, Chief Quartermaster New York city, for assignment to duty.

Captain C. E. Bliven—So much of Special Orders, No. 423, November 29, 1864, Adjutant-General's Office, as directed Captain C. E. Bliven, Assistant Quartermaster, to report in person to the Chief Quartermaster armies operating against Richmond, for assignment to duty, is revoked, and he will report in person to Colonel W. W. McKim, Depot Quartermaster at Cincinnati, Ohio, for assignment to duty.

RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED.

Captain Leander C. Noble, to take effect December 15, 1864, on condition that he receive no final payments until he shall have satisfied the Pay Department that he is not indebted to the United States.

Captain Lorenzo D. Myers, to take effect December 21, 1864, on condition that he receive no final payments until he shall have satisfied the Pay Department that he is not indebted to the United States.

Captain J. W. Clark, to take effect December 6, 1864, on condition that he receive no final payments until he shall have satisfied the Pay Department that he is not indebted to the United States.

Captain T. E. Hall, to take effect December 5, 1864, on condition that he receive no final payment until he shall have satisfied the Pay Department that he is not indebted to the United States.

Captain James R. Hosmer, to take effect December 13, 1864, on condition that he receive no final payments until he shall have satisfied the Pay Department that he is not indebted to the United States.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Captain Andrew H. Young. [Accepted appointment as Add. Paymaster]. Having on the 1st July, 1864, accepted the appointment of Assistant Paymaster of Volunteers to rank from May 28, 1864, his commission as Assistant Paymaster is vacated from the last named date.

Captain A. U. Runyon. [Mustered out of service]. By direction of the President, mustered out of the service, to take effect December 15, 1864.

Captain John Gregson. [Dismissed the service]. Dismissed the service of the United States, by direction of the President, for conduct unbecoming an officer, neglect of duty, and absence without leave.

Captain Morris H. Alberger. [Honorable discharged the service]. Having tendered his resignation is honorably discharged the service of the United States, to date from December 4, 1864, he having accepted an appointment as A. Q. M. of volunteers, December 8, 1864.

Mark L. DeMotte. [Appointment cancelled]. Having declined to accept his appointment of Assistant Quartermaster United States volunteers, the appointment has, by direction of the President, been cancelled.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion, in communications addressed to the JOURNAL.

RANK OF WARRANT OFFICERS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—A bill having passed at the last session of Congress, authorizing the President when he shall judge expedient, to confer rank upon the warrant officers of the Navy, various articles have recently appeared in the papers, endorsing the claims of this body of officers to such distinction. It is proposed to confer upon them assimilated rank with Ensigns until five years of service, when they will take rank with masters. If the matter amounted only to this honorary mention on paper, it would be well enough, but other grave issues are consequent upon its enactment.

As men-of-war are at present officered, with a Lieutenant for executive and one or more masters with several ensigns as watch officers, it would not infrequently happen that these warrant officers would outrank those in the ward-room—often all but the executive. On all public occasions, therefore, and these occasions are numerous enough on foreign stations, these officers would very justly claim precedence over the masters and ensigns of junior date. They would be entitled to the honors of the side, to precedence on the quarter-deck, and in boats, and to a participation in all public entertainments abroad or at home. The naval officer on foreign service, besides his strictly professional duties, is a national representative, and as such has to take part in balls, presentations, dinners, processions, etc. Setting aside their unfitness, through lack of education and want of intercourse with polite society, it is certain that foreign military, naval and diplomatic bodies would not consent to receive this class of officers on the terms of equality they have always awarded our Navy. Many worthy acting officers, who have been attached to vessels on European stations during this war, have frankly expressed embarrassment at being placed in such situations. Would the boatswain, whose apprenticeship had been or should have been passed in the fore-castle, be any the less misplaced?

But an issue far more serious than this is involved. Boatswains and gunners are of the class called "line officers." They are now entitled to assume command and perform the other duties peculiar to line officers, when all other grades of this class have been placed *hors du combat*; but give them rank, what is to prevent them exercising these duties according to their seniority? Suppose the executive officer of a vessel, whose boatswain outranks all the masters and ensigns, is disabled in action, why should not her boatswain, the next line officer in rank, assume his station on the quarter-deck; or let the executive be merely incapacitated by illness or simply absent himself from the ship by a visit on shore, how can he as at present transmit his executive authority to the senior watch officer, while there is a ranking line officer on board? I can name a vessel, whose gunner outranks all her watch officers. Rank carries with it privileges. Grant these gentlemen rank and the attendant honors, they will, of course, claim quarters. With what propriety could the second line officer in rank on board ship be required to live on the berth-deck, messing under the circumstances of irremediable discomfort as warrant officers now do, while four or five of his juniors were living in the ward-room, while even the clerks and mates in the steerage were far better situated than himself?

There is one solution to this question that I have never seen propounded. The Navy is now in a transition stage. Its organization is being altered and adapted to its future larger dimensions. The plan I propose can, therefore, be instituted better now than at any other time. Is it simply to abolish the system of warrant officers. There appear on the register for 1864, forty-nine Boatswains, seventy-one Gunners, fifty-three Carpenters and forty Sailmakers, of whom only twenty-nine Boatswains, twenty-four Gunners, thirty-three Carpenters and twenty-eight Sailmakers have been in the Navy over three years; yet there are about five hundred vessels in commission, and excepting upon tugs and tenders, the duties of warrant officers require to be performed on them all by somebody. I propose that the somebodies who do these duties on board these vessels and do them well, should do them on all. Boatswain's, gunner's, carpenter's and sailmaker's mates have not only represented their principals on all small vessels but on many of the largest ships of the service. Doubtless the experience of every officer of the old Navy will suggest many instances where this has been the case, and perhaps others where the deficiencies of the warrant officers were supplied by the superior knowledge and ability of his mate. I have no hesitancy in asserting that the boatswain, carpenter and sailmaker may be dispensed with on every vessel in the service. The gunner's duties are, on the other hand, too important to be intrusted to that class of officials. They should be assigned to a properly educated graduate of the Naval Academy, included in every ship's complement as ordnance officer. This would not necessitate a distinctive ordnance or gunnery corps. That would be retrogressive. The British service has just been imitating us in its attempt to abolish its master's corps, and our own honorable secretary has recommended measures for amalgamating the engineer and sailing branches. The warrant officer's establishment has come down from old times, and like hemp cables and bentick shrouds, finds itself now out of place.

Any argument in favor of retaining these officers and granting them rank as a reward for superior professional attainments, would apply to a large number of equally deserving employees on board our naval vessels. I have already intimated that, in many cases, the mates are better mechanics than their uniformed principals. The yeoman, who keeps the accounts and stores of the warrant officers and therein, by the by, discharges the only part of their duties not performable by enlisted mates, is a responsible person, required to have a knowledge of accounts and to be a good penman, which few warrant officers ever presume to be. The paymaster's steward, in smaller vessels, discharges the duties of the clerk of the larger, while the surgeon's steward is required to have a scientific education. The Navy now has messing on its berth-deck in such positions,

men whose educational attainments and qualifications for social intercourse, would shame any warrant officer on the list.

The abolition of warrant officers will enable us, first, to dispense with their rooms which now cumber up the berth-deck; secondly, by it we would get rid of one extra mass of officers, now provided with a special cook and steward; and thirdly, it would permit the creation of a superior class of petty officers, analogous to the non-commissioned officers of the Army—the want of which has long been felt with us. Let the four mates, representing the warrant officers, the surgeon's and paymaster's stewards, the yeoman, the master-at-arms, and sergeant of marines, constitute a non-commissioned or "warrant officer's mess," bestowing on them a distinctive uniform, mess appointments and certain honorable privileges, but without rank or shoulder-straps. These persons are now as much too low in standing as warrant officers are too high. Qualified men are prevented from entering the service as yeoman, policemen and apothecaries, who would unhesitatingly do so under such an arrangement.

A writer in your number of December 10, claiming rank for warrant officers, says, "many of them have grown gray in the service, and have been identified with the Navy, through weal and woe, for the last thirty years." The new register for 1865 will contain the names of one boatswain, and he retired; no gunner, four carpenters, one of them retired, and six sailmakers, three being retired, who have been thirty years in the service,—and eight boatswains, two being retired; seven gunners, five being retired; twelve carpenters, one of them retired; and five sailmakers, of whom one is retired, between twenty and thirty years. It would be hard to throw even this handful of worthy and faithful men upon the world. They might, therefore, be retained on the list during their lifetime, as was done with the old corps of "masters not in the line of promotion," and be employed in Yards and Arsenals in lieu of civilians; or if Congress should hesitate to institute so sweeping a measure of reform as the abandonment of the warrant officer's establishment, let them be ordered only to first and second rates without rank, and subjected to a rigid preliminary examination for qualification, though I fear that the skilled mechanic, who could pass such an examination would find far greater pecuniary inducement to remain ashore. Those individuals, who have been but three or four years on the list, about one-half the whole number, would be amply recompensed by a year of extra pay on being discharged. The reduction of the Army and Navy after this war will bear far more onerously on thousands of volunteer officers, who have no mechanical occupation like these men by which to obtain a livelihood.

The writer of this article is one who has devoted his life to the interests of the Navy and who desires only its prosperity and renown. His position is such that he is in no way personally interested by the measure he proposes, so that he can assure the public as well as the gentlemen to whom he has referred, that only a wish to contribute to the good of the service has induced him to pen it, and only the knowledge that his views meet the approbation of many brother officers, has induced him to publish it.

U. S. N.

NAVAL ORDNANCE.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—Of the reports made by the different Government Bureaus, none is more important or instructive, than the Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance of the Navy Department. The scientific interest of the document is greatly enhanced by the fact, that Naval Ordnance is at present an all-engrossing subject of discussion with the great naval powers. The Report will, therefore, be eagerly scrutinized, to ascertain the efficiency of our Navy in this vital point.

The numerous conditions, both for ordinary and iron-clad fighting, which it is essential naval ordnance should meet, appear to be completely satisfied by the various guns now in service. The present perfection of our naval artillery and its appurtenances, is, in large part, due to the skill and untiring industry of Rear-Admiral DAHLGREN. He early foresaw that horizontal shell firing from the batteries of ships would be the rule in all the navies of the world. Thoroughly impressed with this idea, he devoted himself to the perfection of shells and shell-guns, with the result now universally acknowledged, of placing the American Navy ahead of the world in the perfection of this terrible arm. The increase in the calibre and weight of the guns necessary to carry out the Admiral's plans, entailed corresponding changes in the means for handling them, checking the recoil, &c.; these conditions were so judiciously fulfilled that the severe practical trials in battle during the present war prove that there is but little room for improvement in this particular. The pivot carriage for the new XI. inch, may be mentioned as eminently successful.

The Dahlgren guns are often spoken of sneeringly, as having nothing peculiarly novel about them. Perhaps this may be true, and if so, it is the very thing which should excite the most admiration—it is in fact the very first common-sense cast-iron gun ever made. It is devoid of all excrescences; no sudden changes of size, which are well understood to be great sources of weakness, mar its beautifully-curved outline. It impresses one with the idea that it was made for use.

The IX. and XI. inch. Dahlgrens, although intended, when designed, chiefly for shell-firing with moderate charges, have since the exigencies of the service demanded it, exhibited a degree of endurance under heavy charges with solid shot heretofore unprecedented in the history of artillery. If the strength of the XI. inch. guns with which the original Monitor was equipped, had been known at the time of the *Merrimac-Monitor* fight, a more decisive result would have been the consequence. This gun is now permitted to be fired with 30 lbs. of cannon powder and solid shot against iron-clads; it has penetrated 4½ inch. solid plates with the usual backing.

The opinion of those not deluded by range alone, who thought that too high an estimate had been placed on the anticipated power of rifle cannon, and that it could not displace the smooth-bore, has been amply corroborated by the practice of this war. Both for ordinary and iron-clad war-

fare the smooth-bore still maintains its position, indeed, under most circumstances, it is the most powerful gun. The combat between the *Kearsarge* and *Alabama*, is a case in point. As Captain Wess justly remarks:—"There can be no question with regard to the superiority of the XI. inch. guns over the Blakely 120-pounder and the 68-pounder of the English pivot system, either in penetration, smashing effect of the shot, or explosive power of the shells."

The *Alabama* was the match of the *Kearsarge* in tonnage, motive power, number of men and guns. She was equipped with, what was considered in England by the very best naval authorities, a crack battery. Before this engagement it would have been landed to the skies, as perfection itself for a vessel of her character, but the accuracy, penetration and certainty of the XI. inch. shells, proved at once and forever, the great superiority of large spherical time-fuse shells against non-impregnable vessels over the clumsy and complicated rifle projectiles.

The XI. inch. guns being provided with an accurate sliding sight-bar, it required but a few rounds to approximately determine the distance of the *Alabama*, and that once determined, her fate was sealed. The fatal time-fuses exploding the spherical shells of the *Kearsarge*, with deadly certainty, within the enemy's vessel, and opening large chasms in her sides, soon settled the day. It was, in short, the American system pitted against that of the English navy.

For an iron-clad gun, we have the powerful XV. inch. The introduction of this monster gun is due solely to the judgment and boldness of Assistant-Secretary Fox. Without it, our impregnable turrets would indeed be toothless. The success of this gun is one of the most, if not the most, brilliant achievement in the way of ordnance on record.

When this gun was first installed in the Monitor turrets, many felt apprehensive of its success on account of the comparatively low charge of powder to which it was limited. But the moment subsequent trials proved this piece to be capable of firing with safety the enormous charges necessary for its entire success, you, Mr. Editor, I remember, were among the very first to recognize it, as the following extract from the JOURNAL of April 23, 1864, will very satisfactorily show:

"The use of fifty pounds of powder as a service charge in the fifteen inch guns with which the Monitors are equipped, has inaugurated a new era in naval warfare. All experiments with guns against iron targets have clearly shown that all attempts to produce a gun to be really effective on iron-clad vessels, except by making them capable of being fired with enormous charges of powder, have been and will be futile. Patent projectiles and ingenious methods of rifling will not crush in the sides of the iron-clad; that wonderful agent, gunpowder, and plenty of it, too, alone can accomplish this. The engineer may as well attempt to propel a large steamer at high speed without consuming coal in proportion to the result obtained, as for the artillery to produce the effect he is striving for on the sides of the iron-clad without using enormous charges of powder."

"The effect of the four hundred and thirty pound spherical shell fired from the fifteen-inch gun within the impregnable turret of the *Webbsaken*, with a charge of thirty-five pounds, on the sides of the iron-clad *Atlanta*, is well known. It was the smashing effect of the enormous projectile that carried the day."

This great gun is now permitted to be used with sixty pounds of cannon powder with solid shot against iron-clads. Well may every one interested feel satisfied with this remarkable success. Without a dollar spent in experiments, while England has fruitlessly wasted millions, our iron-clads are provided with ordnance which make them invincible against any floating structure.

I.

A CASE OF REBEL BARBARITY.

TREATMENT OF OFFICERS OF COLORED TROOPS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR:—I send you the following report of Mr. FITCH, made during my absence to my Assistant, Major INNES. No comment upon such a murder is necessary; nay, no comment is endurable, so bold is the horror excited by such diabolism.

His treatment is neither universal nor exceptional. For there is no rule governing the Rebel soldiers in their demeanor to captured officers and soldiers of Colored Troops. Several officers of Colored Troops with whom I have conversed, who were captured by the Rebels, have declared that they were treated with as much consideration as the officers of White Troops. A lieutenant of an Eastern regiment, who was a prisoner in most of the Southern prisons, and passed through here a few weeks ago, having escaped, stated that at one place, where he was in captivity, an officer of Colored Troops was compelled to work as a scavenger in the streets of the city with his men. No distinction of rank whatever was made.

The treatment of the captured privates has grown more humane since the exposure of the Fort Pillow massacre. They are chiefly, so I learn from those who have escaped, employed as officers' servants, as teamsters, &c. Some, whose owners could be reached, have been restored to slavery. The disintegration of Hood's Army released a number who had been serving at officers' messes, &c. Very few of them when captured were put to death. They are too valuable as property to be destroyed for nothing—so the Rebels reason.

Caprice—the feeling of the moment—alone decides their fate—whether to live or die.

Lieutenant FITCH, I am happy to say, has so far recovered from his wound that he was able to go North this morning. Nothing has been heard of the white men alluded to in his report.

I am, &c.,
NASHVILLE, TENN., Jan., } R. D. MURPHY,
10th, 1865. } Colonel, &c.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Jan., 2d, 1865.

MAJOR:—The following report of my capture and subsequent attempted murder is respectfully submitted for your information.

I was captured on the 20th of December, 14 miles in a southeasterly direction from Murfreesboro, in company with two other officers, Lieutenant D. G. COOK, Seventeenth United States Colored Infantry, and Captain C. G. Penfield, Forty-fourth United States Colored Infantry, by a company of scouts belonging to FORREST's command, numbering 36 men commanded by Captain HARVEY. As soon as captured we were robbed of everything of any value, even to clothing. We were kept under guard for three days with some

other prisoners (private soldiers of General STRADMAN's division who were captured near Murfreesboro) until we reached a small town, called Lewisburgh, some 18 miles south of Duck River. There the officers were sent under a guard of four men, to report, as I supposed, to General FORRESTER's headquarters. The guards told us that was their destination; they took us along the pike-road leading from Lewisburgh to Mooresville, about four miles; and then left the road and turned to the right, for the purpose, as they said, of stopping at a neighboring house for the night. After leaving the road about half a mile as we were walking along through a wooded ravine, the man in advance of us halted, partially turned his horse, and as I came up drew his revolver and fired on me without a word. The ball entered my right ear just above the centre, passed through and lodged in the bone back of the ear. It knocked me senseless for a few moments. I soon recovered, however, but lay perfectly quiet, knowing my only hope lay in leading them to believe they had killed me. Presently I heard two carbine shots and then all was still. After about fifteen minutes I staggered to my feet and attempted to get away, but found I could not walk. About that time a colored boy came along and helped me to a house near by. He told me that the other two officers were dead, having been shot through the head. That evening their bodies were brought to the house where I lay. Next morning they were decently buried on the premises of Colonel John C. Hill near by.

The shooting occurred on the 22d; and on the 23d about midday, one of FORRESTER's men came to the house where I was lying, and enquired for me, saying he had come to kill me. The man of the house said that it was entirely unnecessary as I was so severely wounded that I would die any way; and he expected I would not live over an hour. He then went away, saying that if I was not dead by morning that I would be killed. After he left I was moved by the neighbors to another house; and was moved nearly every night from one house to another until the 27th, when I was relieved by a party of troops sent from Columbia, and brought within two Federal lines.

The privates were sent off on a road leading to the right of the one we took, about in the direction of Columbia, I should judge. I cannot but think they were killed, as about that time our forces occupied Columbia, the Rebel Army having retreated. There were 12 privates belonging, I think, to GRANT's brigade.

Very respectfully your obedient servant,
(Signed) GEORGE W. FITCH,

1st Lieut. 12th U. S. C. I. and A. A. Q. M.
MAJOR WM. INNESS, A. C. Org. U. S. C. T.

REPORTS OF TRIALS BEFORE NAVAL COURTS-MARTIAL.

CASE OF CHIEF-ENGINEER JAMES F. LAMBORN.

PHILADELPHIA, June 16, 1864.

Charge 1.—Drunkness.

Specification.—On or about October 2, 1863, on board U. S. steamer *Juniata* at Cape Haytien.

Charge 2.—Scandalous conduct tending to the destruction of good morals.

Specification.—That on or about October 2, 1863, on board U. S. steamer *Juniata*, at Cape Haytien, the accused was under the influence of intoxicating liquor, in violation of a written pledge given by him, September 18, 1863, to his commanding officer, that he would abstain totally from the use of intoxicating liquors of all kinds during the remainder of the cruise.

Finding.—Specification of first charge "Not Proven"; that of the first charge accused is "Not Guilty." Specification of second charge "Proven in part, inasmuch as the accused did not" abstain totally from the use of intoxicating liquors of all kinds during the remainder of the cruise, after having given the pledge mentioned in the Specification; and that of the second charge accused is "Guilty."

Sentence.—"To be suspended six months from the approval of the sentence, with the forfeiture of half his pay during that time, and to be reprimanded by the Secretary of the Navy."

The sentence was approved.

CASE OF ACTING-CHIEF-ENGINEER JOHN N. GALLAGHER.

June 18, 1864.

Charge.—Drunkness.

Specification.—That on or about June 10, 1864, accused being acting-chief-engineer of U. S. ship *Manhattan*, was drunk on board said vessel at New York, and continued for several days thereafter drunk, or so much under the influence of intoxicating liquor as to be unfit for duty.

It appeared in evidence that the accused had only been in the Navy since February 1864, that prior to his appointment he had been for some years foreman of the Morgan Iron Works, N. Y., and had last been engineer on a merchant vessel during her voyage to China and back; and that his previous character had been good.

Finding.—That the Specification is proven, and that of the charge accused is "Guilty."

Sentence.—"To be dismissed the Navy."

The sentence was approved.

CASE OF JOHN E. BOYER, LANDSMAN.

June 27, 1864.

Charge 1.—Desertion in time of war.

Specification.—On or about August 30, 1863, from the U. S. receiving ship *Allegheny* at Baltimore, accused having been previously apprehended and delivered on board that vessel as a deserter from the U. S. steamer *National Guard*.

Charge 2.—Scandalous conduct tending to the destruction of good morals.

Specification.—That on or about March 28, 1864, at Baltimore, Md., accused falsely made oath that he belonged neither to the Army nor Navy of the U. S., and that the Government had no claim upon him whatever, in consequence of which false oath he was reinstated and obtained an advance of pay, being at the time of taking said oath a deserter from the Navy.

Finding.—Specifications of both charges "Proven," and that of both charges, accused is "Guilty."

Sentence.—"To forfeit full pay now due him, and to be

confined for one year at hard labor in any penitentiary or prison that may be designated by the Hon. Secretary of the Navy, without pay, except so much as may be necessary to provide him with suitable clothing."

The sentence was approved.

ARMY AND NAVY PERSONAL.

CAPTAIN Elias M. Greene has tendered his resignation.

MAJOR-Generals Steele, Gillmore and W. F. Smith were all in New Orleans on the 6th.

MAJOR-Generals Schofield and Cox arrived at Cairo, Illinois, on the 15th.

COLONEL C. L. Kilburn is announced as Chief Commissary of Subsistence of the Department of the South.

BRIGADIER-General Bragg, commanding a division in the Army of the Potomac, arrived in Washington, this week.

BRIGADIER-General Joseph Bailey, of Red River fame, is appointed to the command of the district of Baton Rouge.

BRIGADIER-General E. B. Brown, United States Volunteers, has been assigned to the command of the District of Rolla, Mo.

MAJOR-General Sickles and staff were passengers in the steamer *Costa Rica* which sailed from New York on the 13th for Aspinwall.

BRIGADIER-General Luther P. Bradley, who was wounded in Sherman's campaign against Hood, is slowly recovering.

MAJOR-General Sheridan and Crook, with a portion of their staff, are now upon an inspecting tour in the Department of West Virginia.

BREVE Brigadier-General John Barney has been assigned to the command of the Fourth brigade of the First division of the Second corps.

BREVE Major-General Alexander S. Webb, formerly commanding the Second division of the Second corps, has been assigned to duty as chief of staff to Major-General Meade.

CAPTAIN C. J. Walker, Second U. S. Cavalry, has been assigned to duty in the Department of the Gulf, as Special Inspector of Cavalry.

LIEUTENANT-Colonel J. M. Conley, Twenty-third, Ohio Volunteers, has been promoted to the colonelcy of his regiment, vice Hayes promoted to Brigadier-General.

FIRST Lieutenant Horace L. Piper, Fourth U. S. Colored Infantry, has been honorably discharged the military service of the United States, on account of physical disability, by Special Orders, No. 15, War Department.

The disability resting upon H. L. Porter, late colonel of the Seventy-first N. Y. Vols. by reason of his dismissal from the service, has been removed, by order of the President.

SURGEON George Suckley has been appointed Medical Director of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, in place of Surgeon Charles McCormick, relieved by orders from the War Department.

BRIGADIER-General J. H. Brisbane, of Kentucky, is in Washington. CAPTAIN W. C. Goff, A. Q. M., has resigned, and his resignation has been accepted by the President.

SURGEON George Suckley has been appointed Medical Director of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, in place of Surgeon Charles McCormick, relieved by order of the War Department.

CHARLES Winship Richardson, Co. B., First Massachusetts Cavalry, has been appointed to the position of Acting Ensign in the Navy, with orders to report to Rear-Admiral Paulding at New York.

MAJOR-John Cassell has been relieved as Provost-Marshal of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, and Captain Gilchrist, of the One Hundred and Forty-eighth New York Volunteers, appointed in his place.

W. H. DENNIS, Esq., Assistant, United States Coast Survey, having reported to Headquarters, Department of the South, for duty, is announced on the staff of the Major-General Commanding, with the assimilated rank of Captain.

SURGEON S. S. Schultz of the United States Volunteers, has been appointed Surgeon-in-Charge of the Tripler General Hospital, and Superintendent of General Hospital at Columbus, Ohio.

BRIGADIER-General Wm. H. Powell, commanding Cavalry Department, West Virginia, has resigned his commission as Brigadier-General of Volunteers. General Powell is not tired of the service, but resigns on account of family reasons.

COLONEL R. B. Hayes, Twenty-third Ohio Vols., serving in Department of West Virginia, has been appointed Brigadier-General of Volunteers for gallant and meritorious services at the battles of Opequan, Fisher's Hill and Middletown, Va.

FIRST Lieutenant John Walker, One Hundred and Thirty-second New York Volunteers, has been appointed Assistant Provost-Marshal of the District of North Carolina, vice Lieutenant Wm. Goodrich of the Fifteenth Connecticut Volunteers, appointed Aide-de-Camp on Brigadier-General Palmer's staff.

MAJOR James H. Tallman, Quartermaster of Merritt's cavalry division, who has been on trial by Court-Martial for disobedience of orders in the movement of the cavalry trains from Washington to Harper's Ferry, last August, has been acquitted, and, by the order of the Secretary of War, is released and restored to duty.

SURGEON E. H. Abadie, of the United States Army, Chief Medical Officer of the Military Division of West Mississippi, has been ordered to proceed to the Department of Arkansas for the purpose of examining into the working of the medical service of that Department.

The President has nominated for promotion by Brevet Colonel George D. Wells, of the Thirty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteers, to date October 12th, 1864, for gallant

and distinguished services at the battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia. Colonel Wells, it will be remembered, was wounded in that action.

Among the promotions in the Medical Department sent to the Senate by the President are the following:—Medical Inspector-General Joseph K. Barnes, to be Surgeon-General, with the rank of brigadier-general, August 22nd, 1864, vice Hammond, dismissed. Surgeon Madison Mills, to be Medical Inspector-General, with the rank of colonel, December 1, 1864, vice Barnes, appointed Surgeon-General.

FIRST Lieutenant W. B. Dean, 127th Regiment of New York Volunteers, Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the South, having received a leave of absence for thirty days, on account of disability from wounds received in action, Captain Thorndyke D. Hodges, Thirty-fifth United States Colored Troops, was announced as Acting Assistant Adjutant-General of the Department, during the temporary absence of Lieutenant Dean.

A GENERAL Court-Marshal, for which the following detail of officers has been ordered, has been directed to convene at Fort Lafayette for the trial of four men lately arrested as Rebel spies and incendiaries:—Brigadier-General Fitz-Harvey Warren, United States Army; Brigadier-General Wm. H. Morris, United States Volunteers; Colonel M. S. Howe, Third United States Cavalry; Colonel H. Day, United States Army; Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. O'Beirne, Fourteenth United States Infantry; Major G. W. Wallace, Sixth United States Infantry; Major John A. Bowles, Judge-Advocate.

MAJOR-General John Gibbon, who, for nearly two years past, has commanded the Second division of the Second corps, has been relieved and ordered to report to the Lieutenant-General commanding for assignment. General Gibbon is to take command of the Twenty-fourth Army corps, Army of the James, in place of Major-General Ord. The following members of his staff accompany him to his new sphere of duty:—Major A. H. Embler, Eighty-second New York; Captain Edward Moale, Nineteenth Infantry, and Captain Potter, Twelfth New Jersey. Brigadier-General Smythe, of the Third brigade, assumed command of the division on the departure of General Gibbon.

The First brigade of the First division of the Twentieth corps, is commanded by Brevet Brigadier-General A. G. Draper, whose staff is announced as follows:—R. W. Simpson, First Lieutenant of the Twenty-second U. S. C. T., Acting Assistant Adjutant-General; Wm. D. Milliken, First Lieutenant of the Twenty-second U. S. C. T., Acting Assistant Inspector-General; O. M. Clemens, Captain and C. S. Vols., Commissary of Subsistence; G. C. Prichard, First Lieutenant and R. Q. M., Thirty-eighth U. S. C. T., A. A. Q. M.; S. C. Hawkes, First Lieutenant of the Thirty-eighth U. S. C. T., A. A. D. C.; D. L. Way, First Lieutenant of the Fifth U. S. C. T., A. A. D. C.; E. F. Hynes, First Lieutenant of the One Hundred and Eighteenth U. S. C. T., Assistant Provost-Marshal; Wm. H. Rock, Second Lieutenant Thirty-sixth U. S. C. T., A. A. D. C.

A GENERAL Court-Martial was appointed to meet at Annapolis, Md., on the 12th instant, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the trial of James Wade, private Co. "F," First Battalion Eleventh U. S. Infantry, and such other prisoners as may be brought before it. The following is the detail for the Court:—Captain P. Twichell, Third Mass. Cavalry; Captain B. D. Riddle, Eighth Md. Vols., Captain T. M. Canton, Sixty-ninth N. Y. Vols.; Captain A. H. Brown, One Hundred and Eighty-fourth Pa. Vols.; Captain George W. Guss, One Hundred and Thirty-eighth Pa. Vols.; First Lieutenant E. H. Johnson, First Md. P. H. B.; First Lieutenant J. A. Everett, First Maine Veteran Vols.; First Lieutenant J. B. Viers, Fifth U. S. C. T.; Second Lieutenant John Anderson, Fifty-seventh Mass. Vols.; Second Lieutenant C. B. Cutler, Thirty-fourth Mass. Vols.; Second Lieutenant Theodore Tyrer, Sixty-fourth N. Y. Vols.; Second Lieutenant W. F. Smith, First Mass. Cavalry; Second Lieutenant W. W. Rogers, One Hundred and Seventy-sixth N. Y. Vols.; Captain E. B. Parker, First New Hampshire Cavalry, is appointed Judge-Advocate of the Court.

GRANT ON SHERMAN.

The following letter from Lieutenant-General GRANT was read at the meeting regarding the "Sherman Testimonial," which was held in Columbus, the other day:—

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
CITY POINT, VIRGINIA, Dec. 22, 1864.

H. H. HUNTER, D. TALLMADGE, JOHN T. BRASSE:

DEAR SIRS:—I have just this moment received your printed letter in relation to your proposed movement in acknowledgment of one of Ohio's greatest sons. I wrote only yesterday to my father, who resides in Covington, Ky., on the same subject, and asked him to inaugurate a subscription to present Mrs. SHERMAN with a house in the city of Cincinnati. General SHERMAN is eminently entitled to this mark of consideration, and I directed my father to head the subscription with five hundred dollars for me, and half that amount from General INGALLS, Chief Quartermaster of this Army, who is equally alive with myself to the eminent services of General SHERMAN.

Whatever direction this enterprise in favor of General SHERMAN may take, you may set me down for the amount named. I cannot say a word too highly in praise of General SHERMAN's services, from the beginning of the Rebellion to the present day, and will, therefore, abstain from flattery of him. Suffice it to say, the world's history gives no record of his superiors, and but few equals.

I am truly glad for the movement you have set on foot, and of the opportunity of adding my mite in testimony of so good and great a man.

Yours truly,

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.

In accordance with orders from the Lieutenant-General commanding, General PATRICK has informed all embalming surgeons that they will be no longer allowed to carry on their business within the lines of the Army of the Potomac, and directed all thus engaged to leave the Army with the least practicable delay. It is understood that this is owing to the very unskillful manner in which many of them have performed the duties of their profession.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor of this JOURNAL will always be glad to receive from officers in the two services, correspondence and general communications of a character suited to its columns. It is necessary that the name of the writer should, in all cases, accompany his communications, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

Officers are especially requested to give us early notification of all personal matters of general interest; of the movements of vessels of casualties among officers; and military and naval events.

The Editor will, at all times, be pleased to respond, in these columns, to enquiries in regard to tactical and other matters.

The subscription price of THE ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL is SIX DOLLARS a year, or THREE DOLLARS for six months, invariably in advance. Remittances may be made in United States funds, or Quartermaster's, Paymaster's or other drafts, which should be made payable to the order of the Proprietor, W. C. Church.

Subscribers who fail to receive their paper promptly, will please give immediate notice of the fact.

Subscribers ordering the address of their paper to be changed, should be careful to give their previous address.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion, in communications addressed to the JOURNAL.

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U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1865.

THE STORMING OF FORT FISHER.

THE dashing and brilliant assault of Fort Fisher, considering the daring of the attempt, the obstacles to be overcome, the gallantry of the execution, and the triumphant and complete success attending it, is worthy of unqualified praise. To Generals GRANT and TERRY, and to all the heroic officers and soldiers of the storming party, and to Admiral PORTER and his gallant sailors and marines who were not satisfied with "substantially injuring the fort as a defensive work," by their tremendous fire, but must have a hand in the land attack as well, the country is profoundly grateful. The brilliancy of the successful experiment shone in brighter relief by contrast with the failure which directly preceded it. The conjunction of the two attempts exhibits more prominently than before the quality of persistency in Lieutenant-General GRANT's character. If he does not always succeed the first time, in his manoeuvres and schemes, he will always try a second. If he fails in a second, he will try a third, and a fourth, and so on, until some other person than himself desires a cessation. His chosen number, in such cases, seems to be, not seven but seventy times seven; nor is he ready to pause until the successful method is reached. A French magazine lately said that if GRANT had been a general of the Romans, they would have called him *Pertinax*.

In this affair at Fort Fisher, GRANT's pertinacity has been of benefit to the country. The maladroitness of General BUTLER (or of WEITZEL, or of BUTLER and WEITZEL, for the honor is in the dispute), had undoubtedly rendered a second attempt far more serious than the first. "They will find the fort in much better condition for resistance than when BUTLER made his attempt upon it," said the *Richmond Dispatch*, not long since, and LEE officially acknowledges that, after the final assault of Sunday had commenced, the garrison was strengthened with fresh troops. But General GRANT recovered with so much elasticity from the first failure that the second bombardment was opened before the North had ceased to argue about the first. That first attack, in consequence of the diverse official reports from Generals GRANT and BUTLER, had already started an ominous controversy, something like the famous triangular duel in *Midshipman Easy*—with GRANT in one corner, BUTLER seconded by WEITZEL in another, and PORTER in the third. GRANT's report threw an entirely new light upon the question of the Fort Fisher failure. Before, we had only a conflict of opinion as to the strength of the fort. Now, we had a contradiction also in assertions of fact. Fortunately for the country, GRANT proceeded instantly to settle what might have proved a mortifying dissension, by showing that Fort Fisher could be taken. TERRY's brilliant exploit ends the triangular duel, and we think the universal verdict will be that BUTLER and WEITZEL were winged.

It is well that the verbal commentary of GRANT and the practical commentary of TERRY on BUTLER's reports have now been made; for hitherto their statements of substantial facts, at least, had perforce to be accepted as correct, as a basis of criticism. Our inevitable conclusions, even from BUTLER's point of

view were, first, that there was not proper coöperation between the land and naval forces; second, that their two leaders had considerable distrust, each of the other's professional skill, not to say of his courage; third, that, while the Navy went into the affair with its whole soul, the Army, apparently, was careless or indifferent, made fatal delays before starting, and drew back from assaulting when there was a chance of success. We think those friends of the JOURNAL who have suggested that we were too severe in our implied censure upon the Army's part in the first expedition, and, again, in a subsequent article, will now be satisfied that we were only too lenient in those criticisms. One thing most important is now clear: that General GRANT fully and energetically equipped the expedition the first time, and had no thought of its failure.

The success of General TERRY establishes the fact that Generals BUTLER and WEITZEL were alone at fault in the previous failure. General BUTLER elaborately showed how the delay of the Navy had caused the failure in the first instance by allowing the fort to be reinforced. General GRANT replies that he had been repeatedly urging General BUTLER to hurry, and that, in any event, the latter had delayed more than Admiral PORTER. And he adds that the fatal loss of time should be ascribed to BUTLER's preparation of his powder ship. As a matter of fact, this disputed delay was not the real trouble at all; for TERRY, with only a third more troops than WEITZEL, carried Fort Fisher strengthened by a garrison double its former size. The real failure was in General BUTLER's incorrect decision as to whether the fort could or could not be taken. It appears that General BUTLER did not himself land to reconnoitre, and to satisfy himself by close, personal inspection with regard to the possibilities of manoeuvre and assault. Perhaps, if he had landed, he would have seen reason for risking an assault. WEITZEL, an engineer, probably reported, like an engineer, that the works were thoroughly defensive and defended. But very often when his engineer declares a fort can be defended, the general in chief replies that it can and shall be taken! To General BUTLER, reconnoitring along the shore in the gunboat *Chamberlain*, the long, dangerous sand-spit looked like Cape Fear; to General TERRY, ashore, directing his storming columns, it looked like Cape Try.

Several other singular facts are brought out by the dispatches of General GRANT and Admiral PORTER, but we can only notice the two leading ones. The first is that General BUTLER seems to have entirely misunderstood the orders of General GRANT. The latter says: "My dispatches to General BUTLER will show his report to be in error where he states that he returned after having effected a landing in obedience to my instructions. On the contrary, these instructions contemplated no withdrawal or a failure after a landing was made." The second is with regard to the very singular and awkward position in which General GRANT is inclined to put General BUTLER, by suggesting that he did not expect or desire the latter to accompany the expedition at all. He might well have gone to witness the bombardment as "a looker-on here in Vienna," or like a military TURVEDROP, to see that everything was done in proper style and according to the rules of deportment; but he was not expected to be the chief actor in the affair.

Let us turn, however, from this hasty glance at the failure to the pleasanter subject of the success. Here we have an example of what the combined Army and Navy can do, working together in complete harmony. The storming of Fort Fisher will go down to history as one of the most gallant achievements of the war. Let it be remembered that Fort Fisher was an earth-work of enormous strength—a square, bastioned work, according to BUTLER and WEITZEL, of fourteen or fifteen feet relief, surrounded by a wet ditch nearly as wide, and protected from being enveloped by an assaulting force by a stockade, which extended from the fort to the sea on the one side, and from the marshes of the Cape Fear River to the salient on the other. Seventeen heavy guns bore up the beach, protected from the fire of the Navy by traverses eight or ten feet high, which were bomb-proof. It was, says Secretary STANTON, "a work unsurpassed, if ever equalled, in strength, and which General BEAUREGARD a few days before pronounced impregnable." Within this tremendous fortress, lay 2,200 troops,

most of them LEE's veterans, tried in the fire of Richmond campaigns, ably led, and ready to fight, as they actually did fight, with the utmost desperation. Our gallant storming column (exclusive of the marines who were drawn off from the fort) numbered less than 4,000 men. Yet, through the torrent of bullets and shells which greeted them, they swept up the narrow approach, scaled the fort, and, after some hours of desperate and sanguinary fighting, contesting the ground from traverse to traverse, foot by foot, they carried it with all that were left of its resolute garrison.

The fall of Fort Fisher ends the chapter of blockade-running to the port of Wilmington. It is, of course, a very great disaster to the Confederacy. But so astute have the enemy's leaders become, by long experience, in ciphering victories out of defeats, that our people now look as expectantly as Prince HAL did to FALSTAFF for some new device for covering each fresh disaster. The *Richmond Dispatch* has the honor of taking the initiative in this direction, by announcing that the loss of Fort Fisher is a "blessing in disguise." A "numerous and sensible class" contend that Wilmington as a seaport has, from the start, done us more harm than good. They say "that the goods imported through it have been of little good to us, while millions of dollars' worth of cotton has thence found its way into the hands of our enemies." *Punch* had a cartoon representing an English tar in the Crimea, smoking his pipe, with a gratified countenance, while a valuable clock lay on his knee, and other rich spoils were collected around him, already appropriated by JACK as his own share of what GORTSCHAKOFF had described as the "blood-stained ruins of Sebastopol." Whether the Russian general could have arrived at the pitch of Richmond audacity, and called the capture of his citadel "a blessing in disguise," it is hard to say. At any rate, we wish the Confederacy any number of such blessings. At present, we doubt if that particular blessing known as the fall of Fort Fisher is not so effectually disguised that none but a Richmond editor would recognize it.

THE ENEMY AT BAY.

THE thrilling series of victories which have crowned our banners during the last month, and the splendid promise of the month to come, make the prospects of the Union cause altogether brighter at this moment than at any previous period in the history of the war. Neither after Fort Donelson and Roanoke Island in February, 1862, nor after Island No. 10 and New Orleans in April of the same year, nor after Gettysburgh, Vicksburgh, and Port Hudson in July, 1863, nor after Chattanooga, nor yet after Atlanta, even, did the cause of the enemy appear so desperate as it does now. We express the conviction that, if our arms are managed in the future with the skill, vigor, and prudence that have lately gained, under our three great generals, the three great victories of Nashville, Savannah, and Fort Fisher, this year of grace 1865 will make the overthrow of the Rebellion a certainty, and the difficult work in that overthrow will be substantially accomplished.

Indeed, the only fear is, that our people, always confident and buoyant, shall relax a little their exertions, under the impression that their work is done. Let no word of peace be spoken until we are in that position where an armistice to talk of terms shall weaken the enemy, instead of giving him breath. Let us not think of resting one moment until the military possibilities of the Rebellion are exhausted. Very often, it has endured defeat only to rise, Antæus-like, refreshed, from the earth to which our strong arms have dashed it. Since this is the hour of triumph for us and of disaster to the enemy, it behooves us to be on that very account the more vigilant and active. It is related of SANTA ANA that, after a severe defeat, he rallied his troops again, and ordered another attack for the same night. When his officers objected, he answered: "I know the Spaniards, and that we shall find them carousing over their victory." The success of his night-attack proved the correctness of his anticipations.

When the cause of the Rebellion shall be the most desperate, we must look for its most desperate and unexpected struggles. The enemy may yet have unexpected shafts in his quiver. Suppose, for a single example, nerved by a consciousness that his cause was lost, he should stake all his fortunes on a final in

vasion of the North. We must suppose he would abandon Richmond and Petersburg, leaving only a strong picket line of a few thousand men around the latter city, to blind his purposes. These he would sacrifice. Then, suppose he should collect all available troops from North Carolina and Virginia, from the commands of BRAGG and BEAUREGARD, as well as from his own outposts. He would reduce and mobilize these to a compact, formidable column. Then, stealing away from Richmond, he might get several days the start of our troops before his movement was discovered. In our present position, all the region immediately north and west of Richmond is known to him. He could march out from "the back-door" of the city, so to speak, transport his troops to Lynchburg, or by the Virginia Central Road to Gordonsville, and be in Northern Virginia before we had pierced his picket lines and found him vanished. Should he be able to penetrate the Shenandoah Valley, he would overwhelm our troops there as they have been more than once overwhelmed in similar circumstances. Then, Maryland and Pennsylvania, Baltimore and Washington, might feel the weight of this desperate stroke. Meanwhile, GRANT would doubtless be summoned in hot haste to the capital, leaving behind perhaps only troops enough to take and hold Petersburg and Richmond. Or, suppose LEE should turn into the Kanawha Valley from Lynchburg. What would stop his course to Wheeling and to Pittsburgh? Columbus and Cincinnati could be reached by him, and Ohio and Kentucky might be devastated, his raiding columns forcing their way in different directions.

To pause in our hypothesis—the question will come, could this daring expedition ever return? Perhaps not: for our supposition is that Rebeldom was at its last prop, and its Armies only disposed to die with the harness on. For some such conceivable final struggle as that just hastily sketched, we want our Armies prepared; and a hearty response to the draft will do it. But, otherwise, the vindictive enemy may give us a bloody thrust in his own death-struggle. Nor is it certain that the invading column would not return. Why could it not push back again through Kentucky and Tennessee to the Central Confederacy? It would have had the cooperation of the Armies of HOOD and KIRBY SMITH. These, advancing on THOMAS, might help the return of LEE, and allow his escape to the interior mountain ranges of the Confederacy, or across the Mississippi, if all should fail, for a final campaign there. It will be said that we should draw so tight a cordon round the desperate column that it could never break through. But NAPOLEON said that 50,000 men, ably led, could push through any cordon. 50,000 men, ably led, need never be forced even to fight a great battle, if they choose only to move and to retreat in such a country as ours. Such an invasion of the North would not contemplate a great battle, except when veteran troops were opposed to emergency men, militia, or one-hundred days' men, who would be called at to meet it. It would not be over-nice about the rules of civilized warfare; but would plunder and burn everywhere, leaving desolation, and flaming towns and cities in its trail. It would be forced to keep constantly in motion, to strike points where it could supply itself with provisions; and, if driven to expend its ammunition in battle, it must aim also on points to whence ammunition could be obtained. But its design would be a terrific swoop, only; for the question of supplies of forage, food and ammunition would not permit a deliberate campaign.

This is merely one of many speculations which might be indulged as to the last throes of the Rebellion. It supposes several things:—First, that the cause of the Rebellion is desperate enough to essay the experiment; second, that LEE is bold enough, and bad enough, to try it; third, that, of the forces under his control, 50,000 able and veteran men would follow him. Our own opinion is that the fortunes of the Rebellion are not yet considered desperate enough for such a resort. If that theory of "dying in the last ditch" is not all idle talk, however, the Waterloo of the war may yet, possibly, be fought on Northern soil. Perhaps a more plausible supposition may be that the Rebel leaders, when all is over, will strive, rather than submitting to be hemmed in at Richmond, to make their way with their faithful adherents to some quarter where, in a smaller region, and with such advantages of country as may be had, they may

commence a long struggle before extirpation, striving, while their own lives last, at least, to play a stalemate upon us in this gigantic game of war.

These suppositions we throw out for the simple purpose of keeping the people up to the point of constant endeavor, so that, by thinking and forecasting, we may make our work of destroying the Rebellion perfectly sure. Let no effort fail, as the crisis draws near.

ONE of the pleasantest circumstances connected with the storming of Fort Fisher is that the heroic old Army of the East, so long and so bravely contending in vain, while their comrades in the West, equally but not more gallant, carried off most of the honors of the year's campaign, can now rejoice in a substantial, lasting, and magnificent victory to their own arms. Through the conduct of the first leader of the expedition (as it had often before happened in their history), of the three opportunities for glorious success, at Nashville, Savannah, and Wilmington, theirs was the only one that failed. The contrast was painful, even in their rejoicings over the laurels of their Western comrades. Now, thanks to a kinder fortune, they have achieved a complete and lasting triumph. To most of the battles of the tremendous Virginia campaign—unparalleled, perhaps, for obstinate fighting in the history of the war—it had been objected that even the fruits of our victories were only temporary. WARREN'S seizure of the Weldon Railroad, the most valuable of all, was afterwards partially neutralized by the enemy's employment of wagon roads, to complete his line of transportation between Stony Grove Station and Petersburg. But the importance of closing the port of Wilmington cannot be over-estimated. It would have repaid treble its cost, and will materially shorten the war.

It is well, too, to notice that the capture of Fort Fisher is a direct defeat of LEE himself on his own ground. Neither GRANT nor LEE, it is true, were personally present to direct operations. But the former was responsible for the assault, as the latter was for the defence of Fort Fisher. The Richmond *Sentinel* expressly stated that LEE commanded all the country on the coast as far southward as Cape Fear. The troops which garrisoned and those which reinforced Fort Fisher were from HOKE'S division of LEE'S Army. And the troops which carried Fort Fisher were from GRANT'S Army. GRANT, then, and the gallant Eastern Army may count this as a clean and decided victory over their old opponent and his veteran troops.

GENERAL TERRY, the hero of Fort Fisher, is not a West Pointer. His brilliant success shows that the path of glory is as open and free to good soldiers from civil life as from the professional schools. It so happens, however, that General TERRY was well-known to us before his career at Fort Fisher, as one of the most careful students of military movements amongst our young Generals. He is, in fact, an educated military man—educated first by an invaluable experience, and by a passage through the regular gradations of the service; and, second, by constant reading, study, inquiry, and observation.

THE official accounts of the two attacks on Fort Fisher—the one a record of halting attempt and mortifying failure, the other of gallant and determined effort and triumphant success—are given in full in this issue of the JOURNAL. The reports are very voluminous, and crowd out a large amount of more varied matter from our columns; but the reader who wishes to possess a full and connected account of one of the most important achievements of the war will find it presented to him for the first time in these pages.

IN reply to the question, whether or no the brevets recently conferred by the PRESIDENT on officers of the Regular Army, will be confirmed by the Senate, Mr. WILSON, chairman of the Military Committee, responds as follows: "The brevets in question are not being confirmed by the Senate, nor are such brevets likely to be so confirmed, at present."

MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN GIBSON, his friends will be pleased to learn, has been relieved from the command of the Second division of the Second corps, and been assigned to the command of the Twenty-fourth corps, in the Army of the James. For two years and three months he has commanded a division, and for two years, less two months, the

one he now resigns. If experience in the handling of a division on many a hard-fought field is a qualification for the command of a corps, surely General GIBSON'S appointment is an excellent one. When the troops crossed the Rapidan, in May, GIBSON'S old division was distinguished for the admirable drill and discipline of some of the brigades it embraced. It showed the effect of its training in the battles which ensued through all the Virginia campaign to the arrival at Petersburg. Then it suffered, in common with others, from the introduction of recruits, but is now again in excellent condition. Brigadier-General EMTINE is at present in command of the Second division.

IN Admiral PORTER'S report, of December 26, 1864, reference is made to the *Yantic* as being the only vessel that left the line to report damages. As a wrong impression might otherwise be given as to the conduct of a meritorious officer, we append Admiral PORTER'S letter to Lieutenant Commander HARRIS, which is a full and complete vindication and an endorsement of his course:

FLAGSHIP MALVERN, BEAUFORT, N. C.,
January 6, 1865.

SIR—I have received your communication of the 4th of January, 1865, in relation to the report I made of the action of the 24th ultimo, in which the *Yantic* was mentioned as having been the only vessel that left the line to report damages.

If any wrong impression should be given out by this report, it is corrected in my letter to the Hon. Secretary of the Navy, of the 31st ultimo.

My mentioning your leaving the line was to show the little damage that had been done to the vessels of the squadron by the enemy's fire, and not to reflect on yourself, officers or crew.

As the enemy was not firing at the time, there was no particular danger to be apprehended from his guns. I don't suppose that any one will attach any importance to the fact that you left the line to report damages, as the damages may naturally be supposed to be serious, and a paragraph in my General Order of battle provides for such an emergency.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral.
Lieutenant Commander T. C. HARRIS, Commanding
U. S. S. *Yantic*, off Beaufort, N. C.

THE Secretary of War has accepted the resignation of Colonel Henry T. Noyes, Thirty-eighth U. S. colored infantry, who is disabled by reason of disease contracted in the service. Colonel Noyes was formerly Major One Hundred and Forty-eighth N. Y. S. volunteers, and served on the staff of General Martindale as Inspector-General, and was promoted during the campaign of last year for gallant conduct in the field.

CAPTAIN Charles B. Devereux, C. S. of Volunteers, has been assigned to duty and announced as Chief of the 4th Division, 23d A. C., District of East Tennessee, and ordered at once to report to Brigadier-General Jacob Ammen, commanding district, for duty. Captain M. P. Chapin, C. S. of Volunteers, is assigned to duty as Commissary of Subsistence 2d Brigade, 4th Division, 23d A. C., and ordered at once to report to Brigadier-General Davis Tillson, commanding brigade, for duty.

THE President has nominated Brigadier-General Ames Brevet Major-General, and Colonels Pennypacker, Curtis and Bell Brevet Brigadier-Generals, for gallantry at the capture of Fort Fisher. The Senate has confirmed the nomination of General Terry as Brevet Major-General, and he will shortly be promoted to be a full Major-General of Volunteers.

BISHOP Potter and the Episcopal clergymen of New York and vicinity have sent a petition to the President for the relief of the Rev. Mr. Hudson, the Shakespearean lecturer, who is a chaplain in the Army of the James, and has been confined forty days, by order of General Butler, for some offence which the petitioners represent as trivial.

CAPTAIN S. Prentice, Twelfth infantry, U. S. A., has lately received the appointment of major by brevet, "for gallant services in the battles of the Wilderness and during the present campaign before Richmond."

CONTRACTORS for marine machinery are urging the passage of a bill empowering the Secretary of the Navy to appoint a commission to hear their case and give them additional compensation not exceeding 20 per cent. of their contracts,—aggregate about \$20,000,000.

SURGEON John F. Randolph, of the United States Army, has been assigned as Medical-Director of the Department of the Missouri, relieving Colonel Madison Mills, Medical Inspector-General.

MAJOR-General Custer arrived in Washington on Wednesday from the Shenandoah Valley, en route for Michigan, on a fifteen days' leave of absence.

EXPEDITIONS AGAINST FORT FISHER.

THE FIRST EXPEDITION.

GENERAL GRANT TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
CITY POINT, VA., Jan. 7, 1865.

HON. E. M. STANTON, Secretary of War:

SIR:—Herewith I have the honor to forward Major-General Benjamin F. Butler's and subordinate reports of the expedition against Fort Fisher, N. C. As the report of Rear-Admiral D. D. Porter has been published in the papers, I would respectfully request that General Butler's report, with all the papers accompanying it, be also given to the public.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.

MAJOR-GENERAL BUTLER'S REPORT.

HEADQUARTERS OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH
CAROLINA, ARMY OF THE JAMES,
IN THE FIELD, Jan. 3, 1865.

Lieutenant-General U. S. GRANT, Commanding Armies of the United States:

GENERAL:—On the 7th of December last, in obedience to your orders, I moved a force of about sixty-five hundred (6,500) effective men, consisting of General Ames' division of the Twenty-fourth corps and General Paine's division of the Twenty-fifth corps, under command of Major-General Weitzel, to an encampment near Bermuda.

On the 8th the troops embarked for Fortress Monroe.

On the 9th (Friday) I reported to Rear-Admiral Porter that the army portion of the conjoint expedition directed against Wilmington was ready to proceed.

We waited there Saturday, the 10th; Sunday, the 11th, and Monday, the 12th.

On the 12th Rear-Admiral Porter informed me that the naval fleet would sail on the 13th, but would be obliged to put into Beaufort to take on board ammunition for the monitors.

The expedition having become the subject of remark, fearing lest its destination should get to the enemy, in order to direct from it all attention on the morning of Tuesday, the 13th, at three o'clock, I ordered the transport fleet to proceed up the Potomac during the day to Matthias Point, so as to be plainly visible to the enemy, and signal men of the enemy on the Northern Neck, and to retrace their course at night, and anchor under the lee of Cape Charles.

Having given the Navy thirty-six hours start, at twelve o'clock noon, of the 14th (Wednesday), I joined the transport fleet off Cape Henry and put to sea, arriving at the place of rendezvous off New Inlet, near Fort Fisher, on the evening of the 15th (Thursday).

We there waited on the Navy Friday, the 16th; Saturday, the 17th, and Sunday the 18th, during which days we had the finest possible weather and the smoothest sea.

On the evening of the 18th Admiral Porter came from Beaufort to the place of rendezvous. That evening the sea became rough, and on Monday, the 19th, the wind sprang up freshly, so that it was impossible to land troops, and by the advice of Admiral Porter, communicated to me by letter, I directed the transport fleet to rendezvous at Beaufort. This was a matter of necessity, because the transports, being coaled and watered for ten days, had already waited that time—to wit: from the 9th (the day on which we were ready to sail) to the 19th.

On the 20th (Tuesday), the 21st (Wednesday), 22d (Thursday) and 23d (Friday), it blew a gale. I was occupied in coaling and watering the transport fleet at Beaufort. The *Baltic*, having a large supply of coal, was enabled to remain at the place of rendezvous with a brigade on board of twelve hundred men, and General Ames reported to Admiral Porter that he would co-operate with him.

On the 23d I sent Captain Clark, of my staff, from Beaufort, on the fast sailing armed steamer, *Chamberlain*, to Admiral Porter, to inform him that on the evening of the 24th I would again be at the rendezvous, with the transport fleet for the purpose of commencing the attack if the weather permitted.

At four o'clock on the evening of the 24th, I came in sight of Fort Fisher, and found the naval fleet engaged in bombarding it, the powder vessel having been exploded on the morning previous, about one o'clock.

Through General Weitzel I arranged with Admiral Porter to commence the landing under the cover of the gunboats as early as eight o'clock the next morning if possible, as soon as the fire of the Half Moon and Flag Pond Hill batteries had been silenced. These are up the shore some two or three miles above Fort Fisher.

Admiral Porter was quite sanguine that he had silenced the guns of the Fort Fisher. He was then urged, if that were so, to run by the Fort into Cape Fear river, and then the troops could land and hold the beach without the liability of being shelled by the enemy's gunboats, the *Tallahassee* being seen in the river.

It is to be remarked that Admiral Farragut even had never taken a fort except by running by and cutting it off from all prospect of reinforcement, as Fort Jackson and Fort Morgan, and that no case of a fort had been silenced by a naval fire during the war; that if the Admiral would put his ships in the river, the army could supply him across the beach, as we had proposed to do Farragut at Fort St. Philip; that at least the blockade of Wilmington would be effectual, even if we did not capture the fort.

To that the Admiral replied that he should probably lose a boat by torpedoes if he attempted to run by. He was reminded that the army might lose five hundred men by the assault, and that his boat would not weigh in the balance, even in a money point of view, for a moment with the lives of these men. The Admiral declined going by, and the expedition was deprived of that essential element of success.

At twelve o'clock noon of the 25th (Sunday), Captain Gleason, commanding the covering division of the fleet, reported the batteries silenced and his vessel in position to cover our landing. The transport fleet following my flagship stood in within eight hundred yards of the beach, and at once commenced debarking. The landing was successfully effected. Finding that the reconnoitering party just landed could hold the shore, I determined to land a force with which an assault might be attempted. Brevet Brigadier-General Curtis, who deserves well for his gallantry and conduct, immediately pushed up his brigade within a few hundred yards of Fort Fisher, capturing the Half Moon battery and its men, who were taken off by the boats of the Navy. This skirmish line advanced to within seventy-five yards of the fort, protected by the *glacis* which had been thrown up in such form as to give cover—the garrison being completely kept in their bombproofs by the fire of the Navy, which was very rapid and continuous, their shells bursting over the work with very considerable accuracy. At this time we lost ten men wounded on the skirmish line by the shells from the fleet. Quitting my flagship I went on board the *Chamberlain*, and ran within a few hundred yards of the fort, so that it was plainly visible. It appeared to be a square bastioned work of very high relief, say fifteen feet, surrounded by a wet ditch some fifteen feet wide. It was protected from being enveloped by an assaulting force by a stockade, which extended from the fort to the sea on the one side, and from the marshes of the Cape Fear river to the salient on the other.

No material damage to the fort, as a defensive work, had been done. Seventeen heavy guns bore up the beach, protected from the fire of the Navy by traverses eight or ten feet high, which were undoubtedly bombproofs. It was easy to maintain this position; but the shells of the Navy, which kept the enemy in their bombproofs, would keep our troops out. When these ceased falling the parapet was fully manned.

Lieutenant Walling, of the One Hundred and Forty-second New York, pressed up to the edge of the ditch and captured a flag which had been cut down by a shell from the Navy. It is a mistake as was at first reported to me, that any soldier entered the fort. An orderly was killed about a third of a mile from the fort, and his horse taken.

In the meantime the remainder of Ames' division took two hundred and eighteen men and ten commissioned officers of the North Carolina Reserves, and other prisoners. From them I learned that Kirkland's and Haggood's brigades, of Hoke's division, had left the front of the Army of the James, near Richmond, and were within two miles of the rear of my forces, and their skirmishers were then actually engaged, and that the remainder of Hoke's division, had come the night before to Wilmington, and were then on the march. I also learned that these troops left Richmond on Tuesday, the 20th. Knowing the strength of Hoke's division, I found a force opposed to me outside the works larger than my own. In the meantime the weather assumed a threatening aspect. The surf began to roll in so that the landing became difficult.

At this time General Weitzel reported to me that to assault the works, in his judgment and in that of the experienced officers of his command, who had a skirmish line, with any prospect of success, was impossible. This opinion coincided with my own, and, much as I regretted the necessity of abandoning the attempt, yet the duty was plain. Not so strong a work as Fort Fisher had been taken by assault during this war; and I had to guide my experience of Fort Hudson, with its slaughtered thousands in the repulsed assault, and the double assault of Fort Wagner, where thousands were sacrificed in attempting to take a work less strong than Fort Fisher after it had continued and fully as severe a fire; and in neither of the instances I have mentioned had the assaulting force in the rear, as I had, an army of the enemy larger than itself.

I therefore ordered that no assault should be made, and that the troops should re-embark. While superintending the preparations of this, the firing of the Navy ceased. Instantly the guns of the fort were fully manned, and a sharp fire of musketry, grape and canister swept the place over which the column must have advanced, and the skirmish line was returning. Working with what diligence we could, it was impossible to get the troops aboard before the sea ran so high as to render further embarkation, or even the sending of supplies ashore impossible. I lay by the shore until eleven o'clock the next day (Monday), the 26th, when, having made all proper dispositions for getting the troops on board, I gave orders to the transport fleet, as they were ready, to sail for Fortress Monroe, in obedience to my instructions from the Lieutenant-General.

I learned from deserters and prisoners captured, that the supposition on which the Lieutenant-General directed the expedition, that Wilmington had been denuded of troops to oppose General Sherman, was correct; that at the time when the Army arrived off Wilmington there were less than four hundred men in the garrison of Fort Fisher, and less than one thousand within twenty miles; but the delay of three days of good weather, the 16th, 17th and 18th, waiting for the arrival of the Navy, and the further delay from the terrible storm of the 21st, 22d and 23d, gave time for troops to be brought from Richmond, three divisions of which were either there or on the road.

The instructions of the Lieutenant-General to me did not contemplate a siege. I had neither siege trains nor supplies for such a contingency. The exigency of possible delay, for which the force of the commander of the Armies had provided, had arisen, to wit—the large reinforcement of the garrison, with the fact that the Navy had exhausted their supply of ammunition in the bombardment—left me no alternative but to return with my Army to the Army of the James.

The loss of Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 16th, 17th and 18th of December, was the immediate cause of the failure of the expedition. It is not my province even to suggest blame to the Navy for their delay of four days at Beaufort. I know none of the reasons which do or do not justify it. It is to be presumed they are sufficient. I am happy to bring to the attention of the Lieutenant-General the excellent behavior of the troops, officers and men, which was all that could be desired. I am under especial obligations to Captain Gleason, of the *Santiago de Cuba*, for the able and effectual manner in which he covered our landing; to Captain Alden, of the *Brooklyn*, for his prompt assistance and the excellent gunnery with which the *Brooklyn* cleared the shores of all opposers. At the moment of debarkation Lieutenant Farquhar, of the Navy, having in charge the Navy boat which assisted in the landing, deserves great credit for the energy and skill with which he managed the boats through the rolling surf. Especial commendation is due to Brigadier-General Graham, and the officers and men of his naval brigade, for the organization of his boats and crews for landing, and the untiring energy and industry with which they all labored in re-embarking the troops during the stormy night of the 27th and the day following.

For this and other meritorious service during the campaign since the 1st of May, which have heretofore been brought to the notice of the Lieutenant-General in my official reports, I would respectfully but earnestly recommend General Graham for promotion.

The number of prisoners captured by us was three hundred, including twelve officers; also two heavy rifled guns, two light guns and six caissons. The loss of the Army was one man drowned, two men killed, one officer captured, who accidentally wandered through our pickets, and two more wounded while upon the picket line by the shells of the Navy.

Always chary of mentioning with commendation the acts of my own personal staff, yet I think the troops who saw it will agree to the cool courage and daring of Lieutenant Sidney B. DeKay, A. D. C., in landing on the night of the 25th and remaining and aiding in the re-embarkation on the 27th. For the details of the landing and the operations I beg leave to refer you to the reports of Major-General Weitzel, commanding the troops, and Brigadier-General Ames, commanding the division, landed, which are herewith appended.

Trusting my action will meet with the approval of the Lieutenant-General, this report is respectfully submitted.

BENJ. F. BUTLER, Major-General.

MAJOR-GENERAL WEITZEL'S REPORT.

HEADQUARTERS, TWENTY-FIFTH ARMY CORPS,
IN THE FIELD, Virginia, Dec. 31, 1864.

Brigadier-General J. W. TURNER, Chief of Staff, Department of Virginia and North Carolina:—

GENERAL:—In accordance with orders I moved on the evening of the 7th inst. with about seven thousand men of General AMES' Second Division, Twenty-fourth corps, and General PAINE'S First Division, Twenty-fifth corps, to the rear of the left of our lines at Bermuda Hundred, and bivouacked for the night at the signal tower. During the night I received an order from the General commanding to move my command at daylight next morning to Bermuda Hundred and embark it on transports that would be furnished, and then rendezvous at Fortress Monroe. This was done. We lay there until the 13th inst., waiting for the Navy to get ready and the weather to improve.

At three o'clock A. M. on the 13th the transport fleet, by direction of General BUTLER, moved up the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac River to Matthias Point, and returned the next day, and proceeded to sea, arriving at the rendezvous at Masonboro Inlet on the evening of the 15th. We lay there until the evening of the 18th, when Admiral PORTER arrived. The weather during sixty hours of this period had been perfectly calm and the sea smooth; but on the evening of the 18th there was quite a rough sea, making it impossible for the troops to be landed on the beach. Admiral PORTER was therefore requested to delay his attack until the sea became smooth, so that we could co-operate with him. The weather became more stormy, the sea rougher, and on the 20th, 21st, 22d and 23d it blew a gale, compelling most of the vessels of the transport fleet to seek shelter in Beaufort harbor, and to get a fresh supply of coal and water.

On the 24th, at as early an hour as possible, we left Beaufort harbor for New Inlet and found on our arrival, just before dark, the navy engaged in shelling Fort Fisher. Shortly after dark, by direction of the Commanding General, I proceeded on board the flagship, in company with Lieutenant-Colonel COMSTOCK, Aid de-Camp on General Grant's staff, and learned from Admiral PORTER that the powder vessel had exploded at forty minutes past one A. M. that day, close to Fort Fisher, and that he had commenced the attack at daylight, firing his first shot after 12 M., and that the rebels had replied with little or no spirit to his fire, and he seemed sanguine of an easy capture of the work. I reported this to General BUTLER upon my return, and I was then directed to land a reconnoitering party of about five hundred men on the following day, to push as close as possible to Fort Fisher, ascertain its true condition, and to report, so that if it were found practicable to assault, all the troops could be landed and the assault made. At half-past six the next morning I landed a reconnoitering party, and arranged with him the details for covering the landing, and also for landing the troops. As soon as all the transports arrived and the preparations were ready, five hundred men of the One Hundred and Forty-second New York Volunteers, and about fifty men of the One Hundred and Twelfth New York Volunteers, of General CURTIS' brigade of Ames' division, all under the command of Brevet Brigadier-General CURTIS, were landed on the beach about three miles above Fort Fisher. I also accompanied this body of men in person. We were covered in our landing by a division of twelve gunboats, under the command of Captain GLEASON, United States Navy, and the sloop-of-war *Brooklyn*, Captain ALDEN commanding. We were assisted by the boats of these vessels, and those of the other vessels. As soon as the landing was made, I directed General CURTIS to push his command down the beach as far as he could go. He pushed his skirmish line within a few yards of Fort Fisher, causing on his way the surrender of the garrison of Flag Pond Hill battery. The flag of this battery and the garrison were taken possession of by the Navy immediately after the white flag was raised and before our men, moving at a double quick, could get up to it. I proceeded in person, accompanying the One Hundred and Forty-second New York Volunteers, to within about eight hundred yards of Fort Fisher, a point from which I had a good view of the work. From

what I saw there and before that time, and from what I had heard from what I considered reliable sources, I believed the work to be a square bastioned work. It has a high relief, a wide and deep ditch, excepting on the sea front a *glacis*; has casemates and bombproofs sufficiently large to hold its garrison. I counted seventeen guns in position on, bearing up the beach, and between each pair of guns there was a traverse so thick and so high above the parapet that I have no doubt they were all bombproofs. A stockade ran from the northeast angle of the count ramp of the work to the water's edge on the seashore. I saw plainly that the work had not been materially injured by the very accurate shell fire of the Navy; and having a distinct and vivid recollection of the bombardment of Fort Jackson, of Vicksburg, of Charleston and of Fort Wagner, in all of which instances an enormous and well directed shell fire has done but little damage; and having a distinct and vivid recollection of the two unsuccessful assaults on Fort Wagner, both of which were made under four times as favorable circumstances as those under which we were placed, I returned, as directed, to the Major-General commanding; found him on the gaucet *Chamberlain*, within easy range and good view of the work, and frankly reported to him that it would be butchery to order an assault on that work under the circumstances. After examining it himself carefully, he came to the same conclusion, and directed the troops to be re-embarked. This was accomplished by Tuesday morning. In the interval between my leaving General CURTIS' command and their re-embarkation, General CURTIS performed several operations, resulting in the capture of seven officers and two hundred and twenty prisoners, making a total of nearly three hundred prisoners.

Lieutenant W. H. WALLING, One Hundred and Forty-second New York Volunteers, is reported as having gone on the parapet of Fort Fisher and captured its flag. He deserves prompt promotion for this act of personal gallantry. General CURTIS, personally, and his whole command were under my eye, and they all behaved splendidly and deserve commendation. Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. JACKSON, Inspector General and Chief of Artillery on my staff, remained on the skirmish line near Fort Fisher until after dark, and deserveth reward for his gallantry. I would respectfully refer to the accompanying reports of Generals Ames and Curtis for further details.

From these you will see that our total loss was one officer captured, one man wounded in re-embarking, and fifteen men wounded, nearly all the latter by our own Naval forces. The garrison of Flag Pond Hill battery belonged to Kirkland's brigade of Hoke's division, and unanimously reported that they left Richmond on the Tuesday previous. From some of these and other prisoners we learn that Kirkland's and Haggood's brigades had already arrived, and that the remainder of Hoke's division was on the way.

Brigadier-General GRAHAM, with his command, had charge of our boats and landing material, and deserves the greatest credit for his industry and energy in getting these into system and organizing them, and for the efficient services he and his command rendered during the disembarkation and re-embarkation of the troops. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. WEITZEL, Major-General Volunteers.

BRIGADIER GENERAL AMES' REPORT.

HEADQUARTERS, SECOND DIVISION,
TWENTY-FOURTH CORPS, Dec. 28, 1864.

CAPTAIN:—I have the honor to submit the following report of the movements of this division since the 7th:—

At sunset on the 7th this command, numbering about thirty-five hundred officers and men, left its camp and marched to the left of our lines, near the Appomattox river. Early the next morning it moved to Bermuda Hundred, where it embarked on ocean transports.

The first brigade, commanded by Brevet Brigadier-General A. M. CURTIS, was put on board the steamers *C. Thomas* and *Weybossett*; the second brigade, commanded by Colonel G. A. PENNYPACKER, on board the steamers *Ferris*, *L. Moore* and *Idaho*, and the third brigade, commanded by Colonel L. BELL, on board the *Baltic* and *Idaho*; the Sixteenth New York battery, Captain LEE, on the steamer *Starlight*.

At three o'clock on the morning of the 13th the transport fleet sailed from Fortress Monroe for Matthias Point. Arriving at this point about dark, it turned about and directed its course for Cape Henry. Before getting to sea it was intercepted and ordered to anchor near the eastern shore. It remained here until about midday, when it got under way and went to sea.

We arrived at the rendezvous, twenty miles east of Masonboro Inlet, N. C., on the evening of the 15th. Here we remained until the evening of the 20th, when a storm commenced, which caused most of the transports to put into Beaufort, N. C., for safety. On the morning of the 24th the fleet under Admiral Porter moved in towards New Inlet. Hearing that the Navy was to open fire on Fort Fisher, I reported to Admiral Porter that I had with me about 1,000 or 1,200 men, and was ready and anxious to co-operate with him.

On the morning of the 25th all four vessels anchored near the shore, about two and a half miles north of Fort Fisher, and immediately began preparations for landing. Brevet Brigadier-General CURTIS and five hundred of his brigade were the first to land. During the landing of my Second brigade I went ashore. Shortly after my arrival the enemy opened a slight infantry fire. This was quickly suppressed by our own skirmishers. Soon after a deserter came in and reported that Kirkland's brigade of Hoke's division was in our front. This man I sent at once to the Major-General commanding the department.

As soon as Colonel BELL's brigade had landed, I moved with it along the shore to the support of Brevet Brigadier-General CURTIS, leaving to the troops then ashore and to those rapidly coming the task of repulsing any attack the enemy might make. Reports indicated a heavy force of the enemy near at hand. It was dusk when I reached the front. I there heard that the First brigade was to remain where it was until further orders, and that if an attack was made on the fort the responsibility would rest with the officer in immediate command. At this time I did not know that it had been decided not to attack the fort, and that the troops were to re-embark. Upon the report of Brevet Brigadier-General CURTIS that he could take the fort, I sent his brigade forward to make the attempt. By the time he reached his position it was dark, and the Navy had almost entirely ceased its fire. The troops, which during the day had to seek shelter, now boldly manned their guns. Had the attack been made it would have failed. It was not made. An order reached me at this time to return and re-embark. All returned to the transports except a part of the First brigade, which, owing to the surf, was forced to remain on shore till the 27th, when the sea had sufficiently subsided to allow its re-embarkation.

I cannot speak in too high terms of the officers and men, not only while uncomfortably crowded on shipboard, but when on shore in contact with the enemy. Lieutenant H. WALLING, of the One Hundred and Forty-second New York Volunteers, took from the parapet of Fort Fisher its flag. He deserves some adequate reward. General CURTIS recommends that Lieutenant WALLING be breveted major. I heartily approve it. Colonel DAGGET, commanding the One Hundred and Seventeenth New York Volunteers, captured some two hundred and twenty prisoners. I inclose brevet Brigadier-General CURTIS' report.

The command is deeply indebted to the Naval Brigade for efficient and hazardous service in taking the troops from the shore through a heavy surf. We lost one officer, who, by accident passed through our pickets into the enemy's, and a soldier drowned in the surf. Some ten or fifteen men were wounded. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. AMES, Brigadier-General Volunteers.

Captain Wheeler, Assistant Adjutant General to General Weitzel.

ENDORSEMENT BY GENERAL GRANT.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
CITY POINT, VA., Jan. 7, 1865.

To avoid publicity of the time of sailing and destination of the expedition against Fort Fisher, my orders to General Butler to prepare it were given verbally, and the instructions to the commanding officer of the expedition were made by him and submitted to me. I am to be regarded as having approved of General Butler's instructions to General Weitzel, together with copies of my dispatches and instructions to General Butler, relating to the expedition. It will be perceived that it was never contemplated that General Butler should accompany the expedition, but that Major-General Weitzel was especially named as the commander of it.

My hopes of success rested entirely on our ability to capture Fort Fisher, and I had even a hope of getting Wilmington before the enemy could get troops there to oppose us. I knew that the enemy had taken nearly the entire garrison of Wilmington and its dependencies to oppose Sherman. I am inclined to ascribe the delay which has cost us so dearly to an experiment. I refer to the explosion of gunpowder in the open air.

My dispatches to General Butler will show his view to be in error where he states that he returned after having effected a landing, in obedience to my instructions. On the contrary, these instructions contemplated no withdrawal or a failure after a landing was made.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.

GENERAL BUTLER'S INSTRUCTIONS TO GENERAL WEITZEL.

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA AND
NORTH CAROLINA, ARMY OF THE JAMES,
IN THE FIELD, Dec. 6, 1864.

Major-General G. WEITZEL, Commanding Twenty-fifth Corps:—
GENERAL.—The Major-General commanding has entrusted you with the command of the expedition about to embark for the North Carolina coast. It will consist of about six thousand five hundred infantry, two batteries of artillery and fifty cavalry. The effective men of General Ames' division of the Twenty-fourth Corps and General Paine's division of the Twenty-fifth Corps will furnish the infantry forces. General Paine is under your orders. General Ames will be ordered to report to you in person immediately. You will confer with these officers, and arrange details, instruct them to select their best men, making your total force about six thousand five hundred men. The Chief of Artillery, in conference with you, will designate the artillery to be taken. The horses of the batteries, except one horse for each officer and chief of piece, will be left. Take one set of wheel harness. Fifty men of the Massachusetts Cavalry will be ordered to report to you. Forty ambulances (two horses) with the necessary medical stores, have been selected for the expedition, which will be distributed on at least two boats. Take sixty rounds of ammunition on the men, one hundred rounds in boxes to be distributed through the fleet. If your division trains do not furnish the necessary amount, the balance required will be furnished by the Chief of Ordnance at the point of embarkation. Three hundred rounds of artillery ammunition per gun will be taken. So much of it as is not contained in lumber boxes and casks will be loaded in boxes at the point of embarkation. Let each regiment draw and take with it on transports five days' rations, three days' cooked meat. Twenty days' additional will be taken in at Fortress Monroe, distributing it through the fleet. Field rations will only be taken. Two pack mules for division and brigade headquarters will be allowed. Mounted officers will take but one horse for personal use. The Chief Quartermaster has been instructed to furnish 150 mules' harnesses. It is expected to obtain the animals from the enemy's country. The Chief Quartermaster will also furnish a party of wharf builders and a small amount of material for a landing, &c. Thirty launches will be taken on board at Fortress Monroe. The Chief Signal Officer has been instructed to order signal officers and men to report to you. Lieutenant Parson, with a company of engineer soldiers will report to you. Five hundred shovels two hundred ax and axes and one hundred picks have been prepared. It is expected that the necessary transportation will be ready to-morrow at Deep Bottom.

You will report in person to the Major-General commanding for further instructions.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN W. TURNER,
Brigadier-General and Chief of Staff.

H. C. CLARK, Captain and Aide-de-Camp.
END OF MESSAGE.
Respectfully forwarded to Lieutenant-General Grant for his information, and with the earnest request that he will make any suggestions that may occur to him in aid of the engagement.

R. F. BUTLER,
Major-General Commanding.
T. S. BOWERS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM GENERAL GRANT TO GENERAL BUTLER.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
CITY POINT, NOV. 30, 1864.

Major-General BUTLER:—
I have files of Savannah and Augusta papers by Colonel Mulford, from which I gather that Bragg has gone to Georgia, taking with him what I judge to be the most of the forces from about Wilmington. It is therefore important that Weitzel should get off during his absence; and if successful in effecting a landing, he may, by a bold dash, succeed in capturing Wilmington. Make all the arrangements for his departure, so that the Navy will not be detained one moment for the Army.

Did you order Palmer to make the move proposed yesterday? It is important that he should do so without delay.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.
T. S. BOWERS, A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
CITY POINT, Va., Dec. 4, 1864.

Major-General BUTLER:—
I feel great anxiety to see the Wilmington expedition off, both on account of the present fine weather, which we can expect no great continuance of, and because Sherman may now be expected to strike the sea coast any day, leaving Bragg free to return. I think it advisable for you to notify Admiral Porter, and get off without delay, with or without your powder boat.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.
T. S. BOWERS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
CITY POINT, Va., Dec. 6, 1864.

To Major-General B. F. BUTLER, Commanding Army of the James:—
I had sent you a cypher dispatch before receiving your instructions to General Weitzel. I think it advisable that all embarkation should take place at Bermuda. The number of entrenching tools I think should be increased three or four times.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.
T. S. BOWERS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
CITY POINT, Dec. 8, 1864.

Major-General BUTLER, Commanding Army of the James:—
GENERAL.—The first object of the expedition under General Weitzel is to close to the enemy the port of Wilmington. If successful in this, the second will be the capture of Wilmington itself. There are reasonable grounds to hope for a success, if advantage can be taken of the absence of the great part of the enemy's forces, now looking after Sherman in Georgia. The directions you have given for the number and equipment of the expedition are all right, except in the unimportant ones of where to embark and the amount of entrenching tools to be taken. The object of the expedition will be gained by effecting a landing on the mainland between Cape Fear river and the Atlantic, north of the north entrance to the river. Should such landing be effected, whether the enemy hold Fort Fisher or the batteries guarding the entrance to the river there, the troops should entrench themselves, and, by co-operating with the Navy, effect the reduction and capture of those places. These in our hands, the Navy could enter the harbor, and the port of Wilmington would be sealed. Should Fort Fisher and the point of land on which it is built fall into the hands of our troops immediately on landing, it will be worth the attempt to capture Wilmington by a forced march and surprise. If time is consumed in gaining the first object of the expedition, the second will become a matter of after consideration. The details for the execution are entrusted to you and the officer immediately in command of the troops. Should the troops under General Weitzel fail to effect a landing at or near Fort Fisher, they will be returned to the Army operating against Richmond without delay.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.
T. S. BOWERS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
CITY POINT, Va., Dec. 7, 1864.

Major-General BUTLER:—
Let General Weitzel get off as soon as possible. We don't want the Navy to wait an hour.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.
T. S. BOWERS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
CITY POINT, Va., Dec. 11, 1864.

Major-General BUTLER, Fortress Monroe:—
Richmond papers of the 10th show that on the 7th Sherman was east of the Ogeechee and within twenty-five miles of Savannah, having marched eighteen miles the day before. If you do not get off immediately you will lose the chance of surprising a weak garrison.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.
T. S. BOWERS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES,
CITY POINT, Va., Dec. 14, 1864.

Major-General BUTLER, Fortress Monroe:—
What is the prospect for getting your expedition started? It is a great pity we were not ten or twelve days earlier. I am confident it would have been successful. Have you heard from Palmer? The

Richmond papers give no account of any Federals on the Roanoke or Weldon road south of Weldon.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General.
T. S. BOWERS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

THE SECOND EXPEDITION.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Jan. 17—10:40 A. M.

Major-General J. A. DIX:

The following official dispatches have just been received at this Department:—

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES ON
FEDERAL POINT, N. C., Jan. 15,
via Fortress Monroe, Jan. 17.

Brigadier-General J. A. RAWLINS:

GENERAL.—I have the honor to report that Fort Fisher was carried by assault this afternoon and evening, by General Ames' division and the Second brigade of the First division of the Twenty-fourth Army Corps, gallantly aided by a battalion of marines and seamen from the Navy. The assault was preceded by a heavy bombardment from the Federal fleet, and was made at 3:30 P. M., when the First brigade—Curtis', of Ames' division—effected a lodgment upon the parapet, but full possession of the work was not obtained until 10 P. M. The behavior of both officers and men was most admirable. All the works south of Fort Fisher are now occupied by our troops. We have not less than 1,300 prisoners, including General Whiting and Colonel Lamb, the commandant of the fort. I regret to say that our loss is severe, especially in officers. I am not yet able to form any estimate of the number of casualties.

(Signed) ALFRED H. TERRY,
Brevet Major-General, Commanding Expedition.

Fort Fisher, Monday, Jan. 16—2 o'clock A. M.
After a careful reconnoissance on the 14th it was decided to risk an assault on Fort Fisher, Paine's division with Colonel Abbott's brigade to hold our line, already strong, across the peninsula, and facing Wilmington against Hoke, while Ames' division should assault on the west end. After three hours of heavy Navy firing, the assault was made at 3 P. M. on the 15th. Curtis' brigade led, and as soon as it had made a lodgment on the west end of the land front it was followed by Pennybaker's and the latter by Bell's. After desperate fighting, gaining foot by foot, and severe loss, by 6 P. M., we had possession of about half the land front. Abbott's brigade was then taken from our line facing Wilmington, and put into Fort Fisher, and on pushing it forward, at 10 P. M. it took the rest of the work with little resistance—the garrison falling back to the extreme of the peninsula, where they were followed and captured, among others General Whiting and Colonel Lamb, both wounded. I think we have quite 1,000 prisoners. I hope our own loss may not exceed 500; but it is impossible to judge in the night. Among the wounded are the commanders of the three leading brigades; General Curtis being wounded, not severely; but Colonel Pennybaker and Bell dangerously. The land front was a formidable one, the parapet in places, fourteen or fifteen feet high; but the men went at it nobly, under a severe musketry fire. The marines and sailors went up gallantly; but the musketry fire from the east end of the land front was so severe that they did not succeed in entering the work. The Navy fire on the work, judging from the holes, must have been terrific. Many of the guns were injured. How many there were on the point I cannot say, perhaps thirty or forty.

(Signed) C. B. CONSTANCE,
Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. C. and Chief Engineer.

Another dispatch estimated the number of prisoners captured at 2,500, and the number of guns at 72.

General Grant telegraphed to his department that in honor of this great triumph, achieved by the united valor of the Army and Navy, he has ordered a salute of one hundred guns to be fired by each of the Armies operating against Richmond.

C. A. DANA, Assistant Secretary of War.

THE NAVAL DISPATCH.

FORTRESS MONROE, JAN. 17.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy:

The Atlantic is just in from Wilmington.

Fort Fisher and the works on Federal Point are in our possession.

The assault was made by the Army and sailors on Sunday afternoon, and by 11 P. M. the works were ours.

The losses are heavy.

Lieutenants S. W. Preston and B. H. Porter, of the Navy, are killed.

Our captures were 72 guns and about 2,500 prisoners.

Generals Whiting and Lamb (Rebels) are prisoners and wounded.

The *Vanderbilt* is on her way North with dispatches.

Two fifteen-inch guns burst on the Monitors.

(Signed) K. T. NICHOLS, Commander.

THE REBEL ACCOUNT.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Tuesday, Jan. 17—9 P. M.

Major-General DIX, New York:

The Richmond *Dispatch* of this morning contains the following account of the capture of Fort Fisher, by the naval and land forces of the United States:—

FALL OF FORT FISHER.

The unwelcome news of the fall of Fort Fisher, commanding the entrance to Cape Fear River, was made this morning, and occasioned a sensation of profound regret. The capture of this fort is equivalent to the closure of the harbor of Wilmington by the enemy's fleet. It is situated about eighteen miles below the city, but was the main defence of the entrance to the river, and its fall, therefore, will prevent in future the arrival and departure of blockade-runners. How far this reverse may prove injurious to our cause, remains to be seen, but at present we regard it rather an unfortunate than a disastrous event. The following is the official report:—

HEADQUARTERS, NORTHERN VIRGINIA,

Monday January 16.

Hon. J. H. SEDDON:

General Bragg reports that the enemy bombarded Fort Fisher furiously all day yesterday.

At 4 P. M. their infantry advanced to the assault, a heavy demonstration at the same hour being made against their rear by our troops.

At 5:30 P. M., General Whiting reports that their attack had failed, and the garrison was being strengthened with fresh troops.

At about 10 P. M., the fort was captured with most of the garrison.

No further particulars at this time known.

(Signed) R. E. LEE,
No dispatches have been received from General Terry since that of Sunday night announcing the result of the assault.

C. A. DANA, Assistant Secretary of War.

REPORT OF REAR-ADMIRAL PORTER.

FLAG SHIP MALVERN, OFF FORT FISHER, N. C.,

January 14, 1865.

SIR:—I have the honor to inform you that operations have been resumed against Fort Fisher at the entrance of Cape Fear River. Since the first attack on that place and the subsequent withdrawal of the troops, I have been employed in filling the ships with ammunition and coal. The difficulties we have encountered no one can conceive, all our work had to be done with the larger vessels, anchored on the coast, exposed, you may almost say at sea, to the violent gales that blow here almost incessantly—on those gales the enemy depended to break up our preparations, we will see. We have gone through the worst of it. Have held on through gales heavy enough to drive anything to sea, and we have sustained no damage whatever. After the troops arrived the weather set in bad and the gale was very heavy, as soon as it was over I got under weigh on the 13th instant, and forming the vessels in three lines, with the transports in company, I steamed for Fort Fisher. On the morning of the 13th the fleet took its station in three lines close to the beach, and the boats were sent at once to take off the troops. These were landed with about twelve days' provisions, at about 2 o'clock, P. M. This time I pursued a different plan in attacking the rebel works. I sent in the *Nevo* Ironsides, Commodore Badford, leading the Monitors *Saugus*, *Canonicus*, *Monadnock* and *Nahcogue*. At 7:30 A. M., the forts opened on them as they approached, but they quietly took up their old positions within one thousand yards of Fort Fisher, and when ready they opened their batteries in this way: I tempted the enemy to engage the Monitors, that we might see what guns they had; and seeing where they were, be able to dismount them by fire. Quite

a spirited engagement went on between the forts and the *Ironsides*, and *Monitors*; it was soon apparent that the iron vessels had the best of it. Traverses began to disappear, and the southern angle of Fort Fisher, commenced to look very dilapidated. The guns were silenced one after the other, and only one heavy gun in the southern angle kept up its fire. The fire of this gun was not at all accurate, as it indicated no damage on the iron vessels. They were hit, though, several times. By way of letting the enemy know we had some shell left on board the wooden ships, and did not intend to take any unfair advantage of him by using the iron vessels alone, I ordered line No. 1, on the plan led by Captain Alden, of the *Brooklyn*, and line No. 2, led by Commodore Thatcher, of the *Colorado*, to go and attack the batteries. This was done in the handsomest manner; not a mistake was committed, except firing too rapidly and making too much smoke.

The heavy fire of the large vessels shut up the enemy's guns at once, and after firing till after dark, the wooden vessels dropped out to their anchorage. The *Ironsides* and *Monitors* maintained their position through the night, firing a shell now and then. They are now lying within one thousand yards of the fort, and the *Monitors* within seven hundred yards, and the fort does not fire a gun at them, thinking no doubt that it was a waste of powder.

The firing from the fleet will commence as soon as we get breakfast, and will be kept up as long as the Ordnance Department provides us with shells and guns. There is perfect understanding between General Terry and myself. I believe everything has been done to suit him. I have heard no complaints, and have felt every disposition to help the Army along.

A detailed report of our operations here will be sent in when we reduce the fort. I see no reason to doubt our success, the forts will be used up so.

We have a respectable force landed on a strip of land which our naval guns completely command, and a place of defence which would enable us to hold on against a very large army.

I will report to you every opportunity.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral.

To Hon. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF REAR-ADMIRAL PORTER.

U. S. FLAGSHIP MALVERN,

OFF FORT FISHER, January 16, 1865.

SIR:—I have the honor to inform you that we have possession of Fort Fisher, and that the fall of the surrounding works will soon follow. As I informed you in my last, we had commenced operations with the iron vessels, which bombarded while we landed the troops. On the 14th, I ordered all the vessels carrying 11 inch guns to bombard with the *Ironsides*, the *Brooklyn* taking the lead. By sunset, the fort was reduced to a pulp. Every gun was silenced by being injured or covered up with earth, so that they would not work.

On the 15th, General Terry and myself arranged for the assault, and I ordered fourteen hundred sailors and marines to participate. At daylight, the iron vessels, the *Brooklyn*, and the 11 inch gun boats commenced battering the work, while the troops made a lodgment within one hundred and fifty yards of the fort. At ten o'clock, all the vessels steamed in and took their stations, opening a heavy fire, which was kept up until three P. M., when the signal was made to assault, the soldiers taking the land side, the sailors the sea face, and the ships changing, but not stopping their fire to other works.

The Rebels met us with a courage worthy of a better cause, and fought desperately. About thirty of the sailors and officers succeeded in getting to the top of the parapet and a murderous fire of grape, canister, and musketry. They had planted the flag there, but were swept away in a moment. Others tried to get up the steep parapet. The marines could have cleared the parapet by keeping up a strong fire, but they failed to do so, and the sailors were repulsed. Many a gallant fellow fell trying to emulate his brothers in arms who were fighting to obtain an entrance on the northeast angle, as it appears on our charts. The enemy mistook the seamen's attack for that of the main body of troops, and opposed a most vigorous resistance there. But I witnessed it all, and I think the marines could have made the assault successful.

In the meantime, our gallant soldiers had gained a foothold on the northeast corner of the fort, fighting like lions, and contesting every inch of the ground. The *Ironsides* and *Monitors* kept storming their causeway, and musketry fought from traverse to traverse, from three o'clock in the afternoon until ten at night, when the joyful tidings were signalled to the fleet. We stopped our fire, and gave them three of the heartiest cheers I ever heard.

It has been the most terrific struggle I ever saw, and there was very much hard labor. The troops have covered themselves with glory, and General Terry is my dear ideal of a soldier and a general. Our cooperation has been most harmonious, and I think the General will do the Navy the credit to say that this time, at least, we substantially injured the fort as a defensive work.

General Terry had only a few more troops than we had on the last occasion, when the enemy had only one hundred and fifty men in the works. This time, the works were fully manned, and contained about eight hundred men at the time of the assault.

It is a matter of great regret to me to see my gallant officers and men so cut up; but I was unwilling to let the troops undertake the capture of the works without the Navy sharing with them the peril all were anxious to undergo; and we should have had the honor of meeting our brothers-in-arms in the works had the sailors been properly supported.

We have lost about two hundred in killed and wounded, and amongst them some gallant officers. I regret to announce the death of Lieutenant R. W. Preston and Lieutenant B. H. Porter. They were both captured together in the attack on Fort Sumter, and died together in endeavoring to pull down the flag that has so long fluted in our faces.

Lieutenant R. H. Lamson was severely wounded. He was lately associated with Lieutenant Preston in his perilous adventure on the powder boat. Lieutenant George M. Bache and a number of others were wounded, the former not dangerously.

The assault only took place a few hours ago, and I am unable to inform you of our casualties. They were quite severe from the assault, but we had no casualties from the enemy's cannon.

Knowing the importance of the department to receive news from Fort Fisher, I have written these few hurried lines. No one can conceive what the Army and Navy have gone through to achieve this victory, which should have been ours on Christmas Day without the loss of a dozen men.

This has been a day of terrific struggle, and is not surpassed by any event of the war.

We are all worn out nearly, and you must excuse this brief and unsatisfactory account. I will try to fully by the *Santo go de Cuba*, which goes North to-morrow to carry the wounded.

Besides the men in Fort Fisher there were about five hundred in the upper forts, and a relief of about fifteen hundred men was brought down by steamers this morning. So far, I believe, we have only captured the garrison of Fort Fisher.

I do not suppose there ever was a work subjected to such a terrific bombardment, or where the approach of a fort was more altered. There is not a spot of earth about the fort that has not been torn up by our shells.

I don't know yet the number of killed and wounded by our fire; but one fifteen inch shell pierced a bombproof and killed sixteen and severely wounded twenty-five.

I presume we are in possession of all the forts, as Fort Fisher commands them all. It is so late now that I can learn nothing more until to-morrow.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

SECRETARY WELLES'S CONGRATULATION.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, January 17, 1865.

Rear-Admiral DAVID D. PORTER, Commanding N. A. S. Squadron,

off Wilmington, N. C.

SIR:—The Department has just received your brief but highly gratifying dispatch, announcing the fall, on the 13th instant, of Fort Fisher, under the combined assault of the Navy and Army, and hastens to congratulate you and General Terry, and the brave officers, sailors and soldiers of your respective commands, on your glorious success.

Accept my thanks for your good work.

GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

The following telegram was sent, immediately upon receipt of the news, to the commanders of each of the Navy Yards:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, January 17, 1865.

Fire a national salute in honor of the capture, on the 13th instant, of the rebel works on Federal Point, near Wilmington, by a combined attack of the Army and Navy.

GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy.

SECRETARY STANTON TO THE PRESIDENT.

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 17—10 P. M.

TO THE PRESIDENT—

The rebel flag of Fort Fisher was delivered to me on board the steamer Spaulding, off that place, yesterday morning, January 16, by Major General Terry. An acknowledgment and thanks for their gallant achievement was given in your name to Admiral Porter and General Terry, from whom the following particulars were obtained:—

The troops arrived off Fort Fisher Thursday night. Friday they were allanded, under cover of a heavy fire from the squadron. A reconnaissance was made by General Terry on Saturday. A strong defensive line against any of the enemy's forces coming from Wilmington, was established on Saturday, and held by four thousand men, chiefly colored troops, and an assault was determined on.

The assault was made on Sunday afternoon, at half-past three o'clock. The sea front of the fort had been greatly damaged and broken by a continuous and terrible fire of the fleet for three days, and the front was assaulted at the hour mentioned by a column of seamen and marines, one thousand eight hundred strong, under command of Captain Breese. They reached the parapet, but after a short conflict this column was checked, driven back in disorder, and was afterwards placed on the defensive line, taking the place of a brigade that was brought up to reinforce the assaulting column of troops. Although the assault on the sea front failed, it performed a very useful part in diverting the attention of the enemy, and weakening their resistance to the attack by the troops on the other side.

The assault on the other and most difficult side of the fort was made by a column of three thousand troops of the old Tenth corps, led by Colonel Curtis, under the immediate superintendence of General Terry. The enemy's force in the fort was over twenty-two hundred. The conflict lasted for seven hours. The works were so constructed that every traverse afforded the enemy a new defensive position, from whence they had to be driven. They were seven in number, and the fight was carried on from traverse to traverse for seven hours. By a skillfully directed fire thrown into the traverses, one after another they were evacuated by the enemy.

Admiral Porter contributed to the success of the assaulting column by signals between himself and General Terry at brief intervals. This fire was so well managed as to damage the enemy without injury to our own troops.

At about ten o'clock at night the enemy were entirely driven from the fort, and forced down towards Federal Point, followed by a brigade of our troops; and about twelve o'clock at night General Whiting surrendered himself and his command to General Terry, unconditionally, as prisoners of war, numbering over eighteen hundred, the remainder of his force being killed and wounded.

Our loss was not accurately ascertained on Monday afternoon, but was estimated at between seven hundred and eight hundred killed and wounded, besides the naval loss, which was slight, not exceeding one hundred killed and wounded. Not a ship nor a transport was lost.

Colonel Curtis was severely but not mortally wounded. Colonel Bell died of his wounds on Monday morning. Colonel J. W. Moore and Lieutenant Colonel Lyman were killed. Colonel Pennypacker was badly wounded, also Lieutenant Colonel Coan. A complete list of the killed and wounded will be forwarded as soon as it can be prepared.

General Terry reported to Surgeon General Barnes that he had ample provision of surgeons and nurses and hospital supplies for the wounded. They will be sent North to their respective States as fast as they can be placed on transports, of which there was ample supply.

On Monday morning, between six and seven o'clock, the magazine of Fort Fisher exploded, killing and wounding two or three hundred persons.

After the capture of the fort, all the troops were withdrawn except one brigade left in charge of the works.

How the explosion occurred was not known, but General Terry believed it was occasioned by accident or neglect.

General Hoke's division, reported as five thousand, was at Wilmington. A portion of it was thrown into the fort not long before the assault, and while that was going on a demonstration was made by General Hoke against our defensive position; but it was found too strong for anything more than a skirmishing attack.

About eleven o'clock on Monday morning a heavy cloud of smoke was observed over Fort Smith, on the south side of New Inlet. The naval officer commanding that station reported that the enemy had fired their barracks and evacuated that fort.

You will be pleased to know that perfect harmony and concert of action existed between the land and naval forces and their respective commanders. Admiral Porter and General Terry vied in their commendation of each other. Each seemed anxious to do justice to the other than to claim anything for himself, and they united in the highest commendation of the naval and military officers and the forces engaged.

To this harmony of feeling, and the confident spirit inspired, may, perhaps, be attributed in some degree the success of our attack, with nearly equal numbers, against a resolute enemy, in a work unsurpassed, if ever equalled, in strength, and which General Beauregard a few days before pronounced impregnable. The armament of the fort was seventy-two guns, some of large calibre and rifled, and one Armstrong gun. The troops in the fort had rations for sixteen days. Their loss in killed and wounded was between four and five hundred. General Whiting had three wounds in the thigh. Colonel Lamb, also, who had gone into the fort with reinforcements and to relieve General Whiting, on Sunday, is wounded.

On Monday everything was quiet as a Sabbath day. The dead were being buried and the wounded collected and placed in transports and field hospitals.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

THE PLAN FOR LANDING.

THE NAVY ORDERS.
NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON, FLAG SHIP, MALVERN, January 9, 1865.

SPECIAL ORDER No. 10.—The following vessels will form a separate line under command of Lieutenant-Commander Upham, for the purpose of landing the provisions and stores of the army, viz.: A. D. Vance, Fort Donelson, Arles, Emma, Lillian, Tristram Shandy, Britannia, and the Wilderness. The Nansemond, Moccasin, and Little Ada will act as messengers, as before.

It is proposed now that the troops shall first be landed before any attack is made on the fort by all the vessels. The Brooklyn will lead in with the vessels attached to her line, and anchor in a position to cover the landing, and drive away the rebels, if any be there. The landing will probably be made at the same place as before.

Line No. 3 will anchor where their guns can reach, (somewhere in about five fathoms water, and not less,) and where they can fire clear of the first line.

Line No. 3 will keep under way a short distance outside the other lines, ready to act as circumstances may require.

The transports will anchor in line outside of line No. 1, and be ready to deliver their troops as fast as the boats come along side. All the vessels will lower their boats as quick as they anchor and send them to the transports, line No. 3 doing the same.

When the troops are all landed the boats will be hoisted up on the port side, and those belonging on the starboard side will be secured along side for towing, so that they can be manned at a moment's notice when the assault comes off.

If practicable, the New Ironsides and the monitors will be ordered on to bombard the fort and dismount the guns while the troops are getting on shore. This will be done when the signal is made to the Ironsides to attack, the monitors following her.

While the vessels are firing, the commanders will keep an intelligent officer at the main-topmast head to regulate the firing and tell the effect of the shot. The commanders of the smaller vessels will have a look-out kept at the mainmast-head. The officers aloft will note all information that may be valuable, as they can see what is going on in the river inside.

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral, Commander North Atlantic Squadron.

Before going into action, the commander of each vessel will detail as many of the men as he can spare from the guns as a landing party, that we may have a share in the assault when it takes place. Boats will be kept ready lowered near the water on the off side of the vessels. The sailors will be armed with cutlasses well sharpened, and with revolvers. When the signal is made to man the boats, the men will get in, but not show themselves. When the signal is made to assault, the boats will pull round the stern of the monitors, and land right abreast of them, and board the fort on the river in a seaman-like way. The marines will form in the rear and cover the sailors. Whilst the soldiers are going over the parapet in front, the sailors will take the sea-face of Fort Fisher. We can land two thousand men from the fleet and not feel it. Two thousand active men from the fleet will carry the day. Two boat-keepers will be kept in each boat.

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear-Admiral Commanding.

THE ARMY ORDER.

HEADQUARTERS, EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, FLAG-SHIP MCCLINTOCK, Jan. 10, 1865.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 3.—I. On sailing from this point the transports will follow the naval vessels in the following order:

McClintock,	Euterpe,
Atlantic,	Lion,
Varuna,	Prometheus,
Tonawanda,	Gen. Lyon,
De Molay,	California,
Thames,	Waybesset,
Champion,	North Point,
Com. Dupont,	Russia,
Montauk,	Blackstone.
Idaho.	

The distance between the ships will be as small as consistent with safety. Due notice will be given of the time of sailing. In case of the dispersion of the fleet, the vessels will proceed to a point from four to five miles above New Inlet, N. C. When the troops are to be disembarked, Admiral Porter intends to place a division of his fleet close to and parallel with the beach, to cover the landing of this division. The Brooklyn will be the leading (southern-most) vessel. As soon as this division has taken up its position and anchored, the transports, except the North Point and Blackstone, will move in and anchor in a line parallel with and 200 yards outside of it—the Atlantic opposite the Brooklyn, and the other vessels following the Atlantic in the order prescribed for sailing from here. The North Point and the Blackstone (hospital vessels) will lay on the right of the second line of naval vessels, and await orders.

Should any vessel be missing, the next in order will close up and occupy her position.

If the troops will be landed in the navy boats, and the surf boats placed on the transports; these last named boats must have their hoisting tackle ready hooked on as the shore is approached, and must be got into the water as soon as the anchors are dropped. Details of sailors will be sent from the navy to man them.

Probably the steaming Eliza Hancock will be sent to the Atlantic to receive the troops aboard of her, and take them close to the shore before they are put into the boats; the Hancock, however, must not be waited for.

III. The men will land in heavy marching order, with three days' cooked rations and forty rounds of ammunition. The utmost expedition must be used in landing, and as soon as they are on shore the regiments will be formed ready to move. Commanding officers are cautioned to get their men in hand as rapidly as possible, and under no pretense to permit straggling from the ranks. By command of Brevet Major-General TERRY.

ADRIAN TERRY, Assistant Adjutant-General.

REPORT OF LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER TEMPLE.

NORTH ATLANTIC SQUADRON, U. S. FLAG SHIP MALVERN, BEAUFORT, N. C., January 7, 1865.

SIR—I have the honor to enclose you a letter received from Lieutenant Commander Temple, containing interesting matter relating to Fort Fisher. It is important as a matter of history, and tells the whole story.

I am, sir, respectfully your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral.

Hon. GIBSON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy,

Washington, D. C.

U. S. STEAMER PONTIAC, OFF NEW INLET, January 2, 1865.

REAR ADMIRAL DAVID D. PORTER, U. S. N., Commanding N. A. Squadron.

SIR—It may be of assistance to you to receive (together with the six rebel deserters mentioned in my letter of this date) the following memorandum of information elicited from one of their number, Corporal Thomas Lawley, of marines.

He says he was stationed, both during and since the bombardment, in naval battery Buchanan, commanded by Lieutenant Chapman, and situated near the Mound; that there were between five and six hundred men in the forts on the two days of the attack, and no troops in Wilmington or its vicinity to reinforce them; that the fire from the fleet was so fierce as to drive the rebels from their guns and into the bomb-proofs, throughout the greater portion of their works, soon after the commencement of the action; that two of their Brooke's guns burst, killing and wounding some twenty-five men; that we dismounted 8 of their guns, besides wounding several other of their carriages, killing 13 men and wounding about 30; that General Whiting supposed the boats which were sent into the bar on the 25th, to be a storming party of seamen, to which he would have been obliged to surrender; that the subsequent rapid bombardment at sunset of the same day was so terrific that when our troops appeared in front of the fort immediately afterward, the garrison only waited their assault to surrender without resistance; that they could not imagine why the attack had been abandoned; that matters remained in the same condition on the morning of the 26th, and throughout that day; that we could easily have possessed ourselves of the forts, until late in the afternoon, when General Bragg arrived at Wilmington with six thousand men from Lee's army at Richmond; that finding our troops re-embarking, Bragg decided not to molest us.

Respectfully,
WM. G. TEMPLE, Lt. Commander.

ARMY GAZETTE.

HOOD'S CROSSING OF THE TENNESSEE.

DISPATCH FROM REAR-ADMIRAL LEE.

MISSISSIPPI SQUADRON, FLAGSHIP FAIRY, CLIFFORD, TENN., Jan. 3, 1865.

SIR—Intelligent escaped prisoners report that Hood crossed the Tennessee at Bainbridge, six miles above Florence, above Little Muscle Shoals, and at the foot of Big Muscle Shoals. Florence is the head of steamboat navigation, and there Hood crossed last fall, securing his pontoons to the piers of the railroad bridge. General Jackson crossed either at the military ferry one mile below Florence, or above the Muscle Shoals. Bainbridge is not a regular ferry.

The Rebels boasted to the escaped prisoners that the gunboats could not cross the shoals to reach them, and my pilot declared it was impracticable for the enemy to cross there, owing to the swift water, or for me to get there with the *Neosho*, drawing five feet, owing to the swift and shallow water on the Little Muscle Shoals, which are rocky, uneven and dangerous. I made a reconnaissance, however, and believe I should have succeeded in reaching Bainbridge with an effective force, capable of destroying Hood's pontoons, in spite of all the opposition he could make, had not the sudden and rapid fall of the river and the prevalence of a fog constrained the pilot to decline going on Little Muscle Shoals.

I am gratified to enclose a copy of General Thomas' last dispatch, dated December 30, in which he is kind enough to say that the efficient co-operation of the Navy on the Tennessee has contributed largely to the demoralization of Hood's army; and the General tenders his hearty thanks for the cordial co-operation of the Navy during the last thirty days.

General Smith informs me he never knew such bad weather as General Thomas' Army encountered in the pursuit of General Hood. General Croxton, of the cavalry, makes the same report of the bad condition of the roads. Hood is indebted for the safety of his shattered army to the worst description of winter weather and roads, and to crossing the shoals when the river was falling fast and in a fog. It is confidently predicted that he will not again attempt to recross the Tennessee River.

I ought to mention that the destruction of pontoons and ferry flats at Garret's Ferry, twelve miles below Florence, and indeed all along the river from the vicinity of Johnsonville to Florence, a distance of one hundred and seventy-five miles, has cut off the retreat of Hood's demoralized and shattered army, and filled the woods, as General Croxton informs me, with stragglers, whom his cavalry are constantly capturing.

The operations of the Navy have been active and untiring. I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully yours,
S. P. LEE, Acting Rear-Admiral Commanding Mississippi Squadron.
To Hon. GIBSON WELLES, Secretary, &c.

DISPATCH FROM GENERAL THOMAS.

The following is the dispatch from General Thomas, referred to in Admiral Lee's report:—
PULASKI, Ky., Dec. 20, 1864.
To Rear Admiral S. P. Lee, &c., Chickasaw.

Your two telegraphs have been received. We have been pressing

the rear rank as hard as the condition of the roads would permit, and have succeeded in taking some few prisoners—probably some five or six hundred—since the enemy crossed Duck River.

From the best information I have at this time Hood's losses, since he invaded the State of Tennessee, sum up as follows:—Six general officers killed, six wounded, and one taken prisoner at Franklin; thirteen in all; and about six thousand men killed, wounded and taken prisoners at the same battle. On the 8th inst., at Murfreesboro', he had one general officer wounded, about one thousand men killed and wounded, and two hundred and seven taken prisoners, and losing two pieces of artillery. In the two battles of the 15th and 16th inst., before Nashville, he had one lieutenant-general severely wounded, one major-general and three brigadier-generals, with four thousand four hundred and sixty-two officers and men made prisoners, besides losing fifty-three pieces of artillery and over three thousand stand of small arms.

During his retreat we have captured fifteen more guns, and from fifteen hundred to two thousand prisoners, and a large number of small arms have been picked up by the way.

Citizens report that he passed this place with his army completely disorganized, except the rear guard, composed of about five thousand men. He destroyed a considerable quantity of ammunition at this place, besides abandoning an ammunition train of fifteen or twenty wagons about a mile beyond.

Your efficient co-operation on the Tennessee River has contributed largely to the demoralization of Hood's army.

G. H. THOMAS, Major-General.

RELIEF OF MAJOR-GENERAL BUTLER.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES, CITY POINT, VA., January 7, 1865.

Special Orders No. 5.

I. In pursuance of General Orders No. 1, War Department, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, D. C., January 7, 1865, Major-General E. O. C. Ord, U. S. Vols., will relieve Major-General B. F. Butler, in the command of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, temporarily.

II. Major-General B. F. Butler will turn over to Major-General E. O. C. Ord, the records and orders of the Department, and all public money in his possession or subject to his order, collected by virtue of rules and regulations which he may have established.

III. The Department Staff will report to Major-General Ord for duty.

By command of Lieutenant-General GRANT.

T. S. BOWEN, Assistant Adjutant-General.
To Major-General E. O. C. Ord, through Major-General B. F. Butler.

GIBSON'S FAREWELL.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION, SECOND ARMY CORPS, January 14, 1865.

SOLDIERS OF THE SECOND DIVISION:—The order which separates us has arrived. For nearly two years you have served under my command, and during this period we have passed through many bloody battles together. I have ever found you faithful, patriotic and brave. The bones of your dead and the maimed forms of your wounded comrades testify to your gallantry on many hard fought fields. Your reputation as a division will always be dear to me. Continue to exercise and cherish those sound doctrines of military discipline which it has been my highest ambition to instill, and you will be sure to add glory to your colors in the struggle which our dear country is now passing.

JOHN GIBSON, Major-General of Volunteers.

JOHN M. NORVELL, Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

DISPATCH FROM SECRETARY STANTON.

FORTRESS MONROE, Tuesday, Jan. 17—10 P. M.

To the President: General Sherman renewed the movement of his forces from Savannah, last week. The Fifteenth and Seventeenth corps went in transports to Beaufort on Saturday, the 14th. The Seventeenth corps, under Major-General Blair, crossed Port Royal ferry, and, with a portion of General Foster's command, moved on Pocomo. General Howard, commanding that wing of the Army reported, on Sunday, 16th, that the enemy abandoned his strong works in our front during Saturday night. General Blair's corps now occupies a strong position across the railroad, covering all approaches eastward to Pocomo.

All the sick of General Sherman's Army are in good hospitals at Beaufort and Hilton Head, where the genial climate affords advantages for recovery superior to any other place.

The peace and order prevailing at Savannah since its occupation by General Sherman, could not be surpassed. Few male inhabitants are to be seen on the streets. Ladies and children evince a sense of security. No instance of disorder, or personal injury, or insults has occurred. Laboring men and mechanics, white and black, are seeking employment. The troops are cheerful and respectful toward every one, and seem to feel themselves much at home and on good behavior as if in their native towns.

Trade is restricted, for the present, to actual military necessity. Many ships with merchandise from the North are waiting at Hilton Head for permission to go to Savannah, but General Sherman has admitted only a limited quantity of supplies required by his troops.

A mistake prevails at the North as to the present inducement for commerce at Savannah. There is not yet any large population to be supplied, no credit or money, no commodities of exchange and there can be no great amount for a considerable period.

All the cotton and products now within Savannah belong to the Government, as captured property.

Stringent precautions against supplies that might go to the enemy have been made, and will be enforced by General Sherman.

The cotton captured in Savannah, of which there is a good deal of Sea Island, has been turned over by the Quartermaster to Mr. Draper, Special Agent of the Treasury. The Quartermaster-General remains at Savannah, to execute the arrangements for shipping.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

CONFIRMATIONS BY THE SENATE.

Brigadier-General William T. Sherman, U. S. Army, Major-General of Vols., to be Major-General, August 12, 1864, vice Wool, retired.

Brigadier-General Philip H. Sheridan, U. S. Army, Major-General of Vols., to be Major-General, November 8, 1864, vice McClellan, resigned.

Brigadier-General George H. Thomas, U. S. Army, Major-General of Vols., to be Major-General, December 15, 1864, vice Fremont, resigned.

Major-General Winfield S. Hancock, Quartermaster U. S. Army, and Major-General of Vols., to be Brigadier-General, August 12, 1864, vice McPherson, deceased.

Captain Philip H. Sheridan, of the 13th U. S. Infantry, Major-General of Vols., to be Brigadier-General, September 20, 1864, vice Sherman, appointed Major-General.

J. B. M. Potter, to be a Paymaster in the Army of the United States, with the rank of Major.

Alfred H. Terry, Brigadier-General of Vols., to be Brevet-Major-General of Vols.

James Drummond, of West Virginia, to be Hospital Chaplain, for General Hospital, Wheeling, West Virginia.

APPOINTMENT OF BRIGADIER-GENERALS, BY BREVET, IN THE REGULAR ARMY.

The following named officers have been promoted by the President to be brevet Brigadier-Generals in the Regular Army for the reasons given:

Brevet Colonel Richard S. Batterslee, U. S. Army, for diligent care and attention in procuring proper Army supplies as Medical Purveyor, and for economy and fidelity in the disbursement of large sums of money, to date from September 2, 1864.

Colonel Alexander E. Shiras, Assistant Commissary-General of Subsistence, for meritorious and distinguished services in the Subsistence Department, and in supplying the Armies during the war, to date from September 17, 1864.

Major Langdon C. Easton, Quartermaster U. S. Army, for distinguished and important services in the Quartermaster's Department in the campaign terminating in the capture of Atlanta, Georgia, to date from September 17, 1864.

Colonel Edward D. Towhensend, Assistant Adjutant-General U. S.

Army, for meritorious and faithful service during the war, to date from September 24, 1864.

Colonel William Hoffman, of the 3d U. S. Infantry, for faithful and meritorious services during the war, to date from October 7, 1864.

Brevet Colonel David H. Vinton, U. S. Army, for faithful and meritorious services during the war, to date from October 28, 1864.

Brevet Colonel Stewart Van Vleet, U. S. Army, for faithful and meritorious services during the war, to date from October 28, 1864.

Brevet Colonel Rufus Ingalls, U. S. Army, for meritorious and distinguished services during the war, to date from July 6, 1864.

Colonel Edmund Schriver, Inspector-General U. S. Army, for faithful and meritorious services in the field, to date from August 1, 1864.

Brevet Colonel Benjamin W. Brice, U. S. Army, to date from December 2, 1864.

Colonel George Wright, of the 9th U. S. Infantry, for long, faithful and meritorious services, to date from December 19, 1864.

TO THE MEMORY OF HON. EDWARD EVERETT.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
WASHINGTON, January 16, 1865. }

General Orders No. 4.

In obedience to the order of the President directing that appropriate honors be rendered to the memory of the late Edward Everett, the offices of the War Department will be draped with the usual insignia of mourning, and will this day be closed to the public; and all military posts, forts, and arsenals, will display their flags at half-staff during the day following the receipt of this order.

By order of the Secretary of War.

W. A. NICOLS, Assistant Adjutant-General.

DISMISSALS.

For the week ending January 14, 1865.

Major Henry Plessner, 9th Ohio Cavalry, to date January 11, 1865, for conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman, incompetency, cowardice, and utter worthlessness as an officer.

Major Napoleon B. Brown, 101st Illinois Volunteers, to date January 12, 1865, for incompetency and worthlessness.

Captain Robert L. Orr, 61st Pennsylvania Volunteers, Assistant Commissary of Munitions, Second division, Sixth corps, to date January 7, 1865, for, while in the city of Philadelphia absented from his command, and not in the execution of his office, violating the military regulations by mustering into an advanced grade an officer physically unfit for duty with his regiment, thereby creating a vacancy in the grade, and Major, into which he, the said Orr, caused and permitted himself to be mustered.

Captain E. M. Ives, 42d United States Colored Troops, to date January 7, 1865, for having tendered his resignation while under charges (conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and appropriating to his own use ration issued to his company.)

Captain James D. Austin, 63d United States Colored Infantry, to date January 9, 1865, for having tendered his resignation "for the good of the service."

The following officers, as of the dates set opposite their respective names, for the causes mentioned, having been published officially, and failed to appear before the Commission:

Desertion.

Captain James Connor, 124th Indiana Volunteers, to date October 4, 1864.

Disobedience of orders and absence without leave.

Captain Thomas M. Gibson, 33d Missouri Volunteers, to date December 22, 1864.

Absence without leave.

Captain J. W. Day, 1st Indiana Heavy Artillery, to date December 22, 1864.

First Lieutenant Augustus W. Hoff, 3d Maryland Volunteers, to date December 22, 1864.

Second Lieutenant John Boker, 16th New York Artillery, to date December 22, 1864.

Captain Gasper Wolfe, 15th New York Artillery, to date December 22, 1864.

First Lieutenant William S. Mead, 69th Ohio Veteran Volunteers, to date January 7, 1865.

First Lieutenant Clinton Beach, Regimental Quartermaster 16th United States Colored Troops, to date January 7, 1865, with a forfeiture of all pay and allowances now due or that may become due, for having tendered his resignation on the ground of incompetency and having acknowledged over his own signature the selling of two barrels of United States coffee to a trader, the same having been drawn by him for issue to his regiment.

First Lieutenant Albert St. Clair, 10th Tennessee Volunteers, to date January 10, 1865, for drunkenness and desertion.

First Lieutenant William H. Castle, 10th Ohio Volunteers, to date January 10, 1865, for desertion.

First Lieutenant James C. Weems, 8th Tennessee Volunteers, to date October 27, 1864, for having tendered his resignation for the good of the service, while his command was in the face of the enemy.

The following officers of the 16th Kansas Cavalry, to date January 10, 1865, for withdrawing from the line, without proper leave, in the presence of the enemy:

First Lieutenant Henry T. Smith.

Second Lieutenant Silas Dexter.

Second Lieutenant Peter Gordon, 10th United States Colored Troops, to date January 7, 1865, for having tendered his resignation on the ground of dissatisfaction with the branch of the service with which he is connected.

NOTICE TO DELINQUENTS.

The following named officers having been reported to the headquarters of the Army for failing to render the reports called for by paragraph 5, General Orders 165, June 5, 1863, and paragraph 2, General Orders 244, July 23, 1863, from this office, are hereby notified that unless, within 30 days from Jan. 14, 1865, they comply with the requirements of said orders, they will be dropped from the rolls of the Army, viz:

Captain H. M. Smith, Assistant Quartermaster of Vols.

Captain J. P. Finley, Jr., Assistant Quartermaster of Vols.

Captain J. J. Hooper, Assistant Quartermaster of Vols.

The following officers, having been reported at the headquarters of the Army for the offenses hereinafter specified, are hereby notified that they will stand dismissed the service of the United States unless within fifteen (15) days from Jan. 14, 1865, they appear before the Military Commission in session in Washington, D. C., of which Brigadier-General John C. Caldwell, United States Volunteers, is President, and make satisfactory defence to the charges against them:

Desertion.

Second Lieutenant William P. Williams, 10th New Hampshire Vols.

Absence without leave.

Major Charles Burgess, 9th New York Artillery.

Second Lieutenant Robert Potts, 99th Pennsylvania Vols.

NAVY GAZETTE.

CONFIRMATIONS IN THE NAVY.

Acting Lieutenant Joseph D. Daniels, United States Navy, to be an Acting Lieutenant-Commander from 24 August, 1864.

Acting Lieutenant Edgar Broadhead, United States Navy, to be an Acting Volunteer Lieutenant-Commander from 24 October, 1864.

Acting Volunteer Lieutenant William C. Rogers, United States Navy, to be an Acting Volunteer Lieutenant-Commander from 24 October, 1864.

Acting Volunteer Lieutenants Charles F. W. Behn, William B. Eaton, Edward Conroy, William West, William Budd, Thomas Boynton Ives, Theodore B. Du Bois, Pierre Girard, Joseph B. Buck, to be Acting Volunteer Lieutenant-Commanders from the 6th of November, 1864.

Also the following Acting Masters to be Acting Volunteer Lieutenants, viz:—

Charles G. Arthur, Ezra Leonard, James Sherrill, Eben Hoyt, Charles A. Bontelle, Alonzo W. Malm, Walter H. Garfield, Ed-

ward Baker, G. W. D. Patterson, W. E. Dennison, W. L. Churchill, W. P. Rogers, H. J. Sleeper, W. D. Urann, Frederick John Gover, J. S. French, T. E. Baldwin, Wm. H. Latham, Alvin Phinney, Henry Churchill, John W. Balch, Charles DeBovoise, Charles F. Clark, Thomas C. Dunn, George Taylor, D. A. Campbell, James H. Maguire, F. T. Baur, George E. Livingston, Robert B. Ely, Wm. B. Sheldon, L. D. D. Voorhes, L. Gustav Vassile, Felix McCurley, Frederick D. Stuart, Henry J. Coop, Wm. L. Martine, B. C. Dean, William McGloia, George E. Nelson.

Martin Freeman, to be an Acting Volunteer Lieutenant and Pilot.

MARINE CORPS.

First Lieutenant John A. Burroughs, to be a Captain in the Marine Corps from the 1st September, 1864, and to take rank next after J. F. Baker, vice Captain P. C. Kennedy, deceased.

Second Lieutenant Frederick T. Peet, Jr., to be a First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps from the 1st September, 1864, vice J. A. Burroughs nominated for promotion.

Second Lieutenant Edward P. Meeker, to be a First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps from the 17th November, 1864, vice First Lieutenant Charles H. Nye, dropped.

Captain John L. Broome, to be a Major in the Marine Corps from the 5th December, 1864, to fill a vacancy in that grade.

First Lieutenant Wm. H. Parker, to be a Captain in the Marine Corps from the 8th December, 1864, vice Captain J. L. Broome, nominated for Major.

Second Lieutenant Louis E. Fagan, to be a First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps from the 8th December, 1864, vice First Lieutenant Wm. H. Parker, nominated to be a Captain.

Francis H. Harrington, of the District of Columbia, to be a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps from the 8th December, 1864, vice Second Lieutenant L. E. Fagan, nominated for First Lieutenant.

THE EXPLOSION OF THE POWDER BOAT.

FLAG SHIP MALVERN, BRADFORD, N. C., }
January 11, 1865. }

SIR:—I have to report that in obedience to your orders I went on board the *Ben DeFord*, on the evening of the 18th ultimo, and informed General Butler that the powder vessel would be exploded that evening, and that you would be ready to follow it up at daylight in the morning by an attack with the fleet.

General Butler, up on discussion of the matter with General Weitzel and Colonel Comstock, directed General Weitzel to call upon you and request a postponement of several days, and I so heard General Weitzel state it to you in your cabin.

I have also to state, that as soon as possible thereafter the A. D. Vance, carried in the orders countermanding the explosion, and to direct the powder vessel to return to her anchorage.

Respectfully, &c., your obedient servant,

K. R. BRESEE, Fleet Captain.

To Rear-Admiral D. D. Porter, Commanding North Atlantic Squadron.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

Boatswain Robert Dixon, to the Navy Yard, Portsmouth, N. H.

Lieutenant-Commander James W. Shirk, to special duty under the direction of the Bureau of Navigation at Philadelphia, Pa.

Assistant Surgeon William Commons, to the *Palatka*.

Assistant Surgeon William K. Van Reypen, to duty at the Naval Hospital, Chelsea, Mass.

DETACHED.

Lieutenant-Commander John G. Walker, from the command of the *Saco*, and ordered to command the *Shawmut*.

Boatswain A. Hingerty, from the Navy Yard, Portsmouth, N. H., and waiting orders, on the reporting of his relief.

Lieutenant-Commander G. U. Morris, from the command of the *Shawmut*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to the command of the *Chemungo*.

Lieutenant-Commander H. N. T. Arnold, from the command of the *Osage*, and waiting orders.

Ensign R. P. Huntington, from the *Mohican*, and placed on sick leave.

Lieutenant-Commander Charles H. Greene, from the command of the *Vincennes*, and ordered to report to Commodore Palmer for duty.

First Assistant Engineer William G. Buehler, from the *Galea*, and ordered to the *Suwanee*.

Commander John J. Almy, from special duty at New York, and ordered to command the *Junata*.

Assistant Surgeon David Mack, Jr., from the Naval Hospital, Chelsea, Mass., and ordered to the *Suwanee*.

Assistant Surgeon S. H. Peltz, from the *Palatka*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.

Assistant Surgeon O. H. Page, from the *Eudaw*, on the reporting of his relief, and waiting orders.

Passed Assistant Surgeon A. Mathewson, from the *Saco*, and ordered to the *Shawmut*.

Second Assistant Engineer Truman Jones, from the *Agawam*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to duty at Baltimore, Md., as Assistant to Chief Engineer Peltz.

Second Assistant Engineer William D. McIlvaine, from special duty at New York, and ordered to the *Agawam*.

Second Assistant Engineer George W. Siver, from the *Wyoming*, and ordered to duty as an Assistant to Chief Engineer DeLuca, at New York.

ORDERS REVOKED.

Carpenter J. W. Stimson, to the Naval Academy, and placed on sick leave.

Lieutenant H. T. French, to the *Junata*, and placed on sick leave.

APPOINTMENTS.

Acting Assistant Paymaster Charles F. Guild, an Assistant Paymaster U. S. N.

VOLUNTEER NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

Acting Second Assistant Engineer William Lannon, to the *Commodore Barney*.

Acting Assistant Paymaster George W. McLane, to the *Magnolia*.

Acting Ensign E. N. Seamon, to the Naval Rendezvous, 14 State street, New York.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer George Bartram, to the *Chemungo*.

Acting Assistant Paymaster L. G. Billings, to the A. D. Vance.

Acting Assistant Paymaster Frank Miller, to the A. D. Vance.

Acting Master J. F. Alcorn, to the *Iononia*, to relieve Acting Master Cornell, whose resignation has been accepted.

Acting Master E. M. Shoddard, to duty at the Naval Rendezvous, 178 South street, New York.

Acting Ensign William Symonds, to the *North Carolina*.

Acting Master O. H. Baxter, to the *North Carolina*.

Acting Ensign E. T. Strong, to duty at the Naval Rendezvous, Brooklyn, New York.

Acting Assistant Paymaster Charles O. Hodgdon, to the Mississippi Squadron.

Acting Assistant Paymaster J. S. Giraud, to instruction at New York.

DETACHED.

Acting Ensign (on special duty) Richard Bates, from the North Atlantic Squadron, and ordered to the Mississippi Squadron.

Acting Ensign Oliver P. Knowles, from the *Stepping Stones*, and Acting Ensign Thomas J. Rollins, from the *Saco*, and waiting orders.

Acting Ensign Charles E. Kinn, from the *Somerset*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.

Acting Ensign Orlando B. Roberts, from the *Stars and Stripes*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.

Acting Ensign W. A. Abbott, from the *National Guard*, and ordered to the *Stars and Stripes*.

Acting Assistant Surgeon John D. Malone, from the *Shawmut*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to the *Eudaw*.

Acting Ensign James F. Bowling, from the *Magnolia*, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered North.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer Andrew J. Homan, from the *Augusta*, and ordered to the *Mercedita*.

Acting Master H. L. Sturges, and Acting Ensign Arnold Harris, from duty with the United States Army, and ordered to the North Atlantic Squadron for duty.

Acting Ensign C. F. Dunderdale, from the *Calypso*, and ordered to the *North Carolina*.

APPOINTED.

Alvin H. Humphrey, Acting Assistant Paymaster, and waiting orders.

William R. Call, of the *Mercedita*, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to remain in the North Atlantic Squadron.

George Emerson, of the *Joco*, Acting Master's Mate, and ordered to remain in the North Atlantic Squadron.

A. J. Holtzman, of Washington, D. C., Acting Master's Mate, and ordered to the *Potomac Flotilla*.

R. A. Villas, Acting Assistant Paymaster, and waiting orders.

William Ashley Leavitt, of the *Nepes*, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.

Henry J. Johnson, of the *Spires*, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.

Harry Setty, of Camden, New Jersey, Acting Master's Mate, for duty in the *Potomac Flotilla*.

Acting Ensigns F. W. Worstell, of the *Tacony*, and William H. Brown, of the *Wyalusing*, and ordered to remain in the North Atlantic Squadron.

John C. Howrred, of the *Shawrock*, Acting Master's Mate, and ordered to remain in the North Atlantic Squadron.

Isaac McAllister, of the *Honduras*, Acting Second Assistant Engineer, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.

William H. White, of East Baltimore, Md., Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Mercedita*.

Edwin C. Brooks, of East Boston, Mass., Acting Third Assistant Engineer, and ordered to the *Marigold*.

Martin B. Patterson, of Washington, D. C., Acting Assistant Paymaster, and waiting orders.

Dr. James C. Bassett, of Kittery, Maine, Acting Assistant Surgeon, and ordered to the *Ohio*.

William S. Bowen, of Boston, Acting Assistant Surgeon, and ordered to the *Ohio*.

William A. Carpenter and George H. Read, of Washington, and Chester N. Case, Jr., of Norwalk, Conn., Acting Assistant Paymasters, and waiting orders.

CONFIRMED.

Acting Ensign Alfred H. Martine, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Acting Master's Mate Frank W. Turner, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Acting Master and Pilot John Sagu, of the North Atlantic Squadron, for special service as such.

Acting Ensign Charles B. Pyne, and ordered to instruction at New York.

Acting Master's Mate George H. Fletcher, of the *Constitution*, and ordered to remain on board that vessel.

Acting Master and Pilot Forrest B. Owens, and ordered to the North Atlantic Squadron, for special duty as such.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer Francis E. Hosmes, of Nashua, N. H., and ordered to remain on the *Penola*.

Acting Master's Mates William C. Davis and Henry M. Page, and ordered to instruction at New York.

PROMOTED.

Acting Ensign D. Rodney Brown, of the *Orcadian*, to Acting Master, U. S. N.

Acting Ensign Henry Pease, Jr., of the *St. Louis*, to Acting Master, U. S. N.

Acting Ensign James M. Alden, of the Mississippi Squadron, to Acting Master on the staff of Rear-Admiral David D. Porter.

Acting Ensign George W. Adams, of the *Vandalia*, to Acting Master, U. S. N.

ORDERS REVOKED.

Acting Master W. B. Heath, from the *Augusta*, and ordering him to the West Gulf Squadron. He will remain on board the *Augusta*.

Acting Master Charles Potter, to the West Gulf Squadron, and he is placed on sick leave.

Acting Assistant Paymaster L. G. Billings, to the A. D. Vance, and ordered to settle accounts.

Acting Assistant Surgeon C. S. Eastwood, to the *Lenape*, and ordered to the *State of Georgia*.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Stephen E. Bartlett, to the *State of Georgia*, and ordered to the *Lenape*.

RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED.

Acting Second Assistant Engineer James McCauley, of Philadelphia, Pa.

Acting Master R. M. Cornell, of the *Jaconia*.

Acting Assistant Paymaster W. J. Coit, of the *Magnolia*, on the transferring the public stores, accounts, and money in his charge to his successor.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer Lewis E. Williams.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer Edward W. Maples, of the *Marigold*.

Acting Ensign G. W. Hammond, on the staff of Rear-Admiral Dahlgren.

Acting Master's Mate J. G. Bache, of the *Somerset*.

Acting Master William L. Pease, of the *Osage*, Mississippi Squadron.

Acting Master's Mate A. J. Emery, of the *Elk*, West Gulf Squadron.

Acting Carpenter Christopher C. Gilliland, of the *Osage*, Mississippi Squadron.

Acting Assistant Paymaster Silas T. Savage, of the *Casco*, on the reporting of his relief, to whom he will transfer his accounts, &c.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer Charles Green, of the *Bankee*.

Acting Third Assistant Engineer William Jennings, at the Naval Hospital, Norfolk.

Acting Assistant Paymaster W. W. Bassett.

APPOINTMENTS REVOKED.

Acting Gunner James Hamilton, of the *Galea*.

Acting Master's Mate P. M. Frost, of the Mississippi Squadron.

Acting Ensign Horace T. Draper.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The order of December 6, 1864, discharging from the naval service Acting Assistant Paymaster H. D. Kimberley, of the U. S. steamer *Kensington*, is hereby cancelled, and he will remain on board that vessel.

OBITUARY.

LIEUTENANT S. W. PRESTON, U. S. N.

LIEUTENANT SAMUEL W. PRESTON, killed in the attack on Fort Fisher while acting as Flag Lieutenant of the fleet of Rear-Admiral Porter, was a young officer who had more than once distinguished himself by his gallantry. He was born in Canada, but at an early age removed to Illinois, from which State he was appointed (October 4, 1859) to the Navy. He served as midshipman and ensign until August 1, 1862, when he was promoted lieutenant. During the first attack on Charleston by the fleet under Rear-Admiral DANFLORE, Lieutenant PRESTON was Flag Lieutenant of the *Wabash*, and afterwards commanded the *Ironides*. In the attack which was subsequently made on Sumter he acted on the staff of Rear Admiral DANFLORE, and was captured on the ruins of the fort. He had been the first to land and was captured. He was sent to Columbia, S. C., where he remained in prison for fourteen months. He had just returned from his imprisonment, when he was assigned to duty with the North Atlantic squadron. He was offered a long furlough, in consideration of his confinement, but declined it and reported at once for duty.

LIEUTENANT B. H. PORTER.

Lieutenant BENJAMIN H. PORTER, reported killed while in command of the *Nanaimond*, was one of the most promising of the many young officers of the Navy developed by the war. He was born in New York, in 1845, and, after the usual attendance at the Naval School, entered the Navy, November 29, 1869. During the Barnstable North Carolina expedition he was acting as midshipman in the frigate *Rossmore*; and during the battle of Roanoke Island he commanded the launch of six Dahlgren howitzers from his vessel, in the advance of the centre. These he dragged through a swamp, the mud up to the hubs of the wheels, took his position "under a galling fire from the enemy," which he maintained, returning fire until most of his men had fallen, when one of the guns exploded, and one man alone remained with him, of whom he thus wrote (boy-like, of seventeen years) to his mother:—"He alone remained, when a slug passed into his throat, from which the blood streamed out; he looked in my face, choked, fell down and died. This made me madder than ever, and I then went in on my muscle." He bravely remained alone with his battery, cleaning, loading and firing his guns himself, until, with HAWKINS' Zouaves, they won the day. His truly wonderful conduct elicited the admiration of all who beheld it. A testimonial was written, signed by his commander and officers. He was, in consequence of his gallant conduct on this occasion, promoted, on November 8, 1862, when only seventeen years of age, to be an ensign in the Navy. He was subsequently captured by the enemy, and during the most of 1863 was a prisoner in their hands. He had been released but a short time when he reported to Admiral PORTER, was assigned to duty, and met his death in the grand attack on Fort Fisher.

HOOD'S NEW LINE OF DEFENCE.

The Montgomery Appeal, of the 27th ult., admits that Hood has been defeated, and is making his way out of Tennessee, and says:—

Although this may be a source of regret, it cannot be a cause of surprise. Under present circumstances, it would be extremely hazardous, if not suicidal, for Hood to hold his present position, through the winter. When he entered the State he had no hopes of remaining, and so expressed himself to his Army, except upon the condition of SHERMAN's defeat or THOMAS' disfigurement. Neither of these contingencies has happened. SHERMAN has accomplished his purpose and saved his Army, while THOMAS effected his retreat upon Nashville with loss of damage to his forces than was sustained by his adversary.

Under this state of facts, we see no alternative left General Hood but to place himself on this side of the Tennessee River with as little delay as possible. The enemy is rapidly gathering in strength in his immediate front, while his rear is seriously threatened by a large force from Memphis. He thus stands in great danger of being entirely cut off from his base of supplies at Corinth. Such a thing would be disastrous in the extreme, and we feel persuaded that General Hood is but acting the part of a wise and discreet general in withdrawing his forces to this side of the Tennessee River.

While this circumstance, doubtless, will afford a fruitful theme for the croakers to harp upon, it should by no means discourage the faithful and those who are constant in hope. With his Army at Corinth, General Hood will occupy the line of defence selected by General A. S. JOHNSON in 1862, and the enemy will find much of his work for the last two or three years to do over a second time. To the courageous and hopeful these facts are full of cheerful import, and it is only those who are "weary in well-doing" that will give way to gloomy forebodings. The Confederacy is still far

more vigorous and powerful for defence than is the North for aggression. Hood is in a much better position for defence at Corinth than he would be at Palmetto or Lovejoy's Station in Georgia, while SHERMAN is less powerful for mischief at Savannah than he would be at Atlanta. The heart of the Confederacy is at least free from the presence of the enemy and the trail of hostile Armies, and by proper vigilance on the part of our authorities and the people it may be kept so.

THE FEELING AT CHARLESTON.

(From the Charleston Mercury, Jan. 12.)

The grand crying deficiency in our affairs, political and military is, and has ever been, the want of nerve—demagogism in politics, and demagogism in the armies—fear of the populace and fear of the soldiery.

What we most want now, and have ever needed, is nerve—nerve, not to run into excess and illegality, but to maintain an inflexible obedience to law and duty. Nerve to be steady and unalterable, not the presumptuous arrogance to outstep law and assume power; nerve to face the enemy, not nerve to bully and oppress friends. We want nerve in Congress, we want nerve in our Generals. It is nerve that has carried SHERMAN to Savannah—it is that which is now carrying him to cut the Confederacy in half. His is an army of discipline—an army of soldiers—not a mob of ragamuffins. He has no generals with rolls of twenty or thirty thousand men, and twenty or thirty hundred in the field. His men stand to their guns—not to people's chicken-coops and barn-yards. His men are full in hand at their posts. He holds them there. He is a General. The condition of the Confederate soldiery in this department (and others are little better) is a disgrace to the cause, to the country, and to the whole science of war. Is there any incompatibility between a Confederate soldier and the discipline of law? We say no. It is demagogism that says yes; or worse, it is cowardice. The Almighty never made a race of men that cannot be made subject to discipline. The world has no use for such suffians. Law is supreme. Obedience to law, is civilization. Are we not civilized? We are. Yet everywhere does lawlessness and disregard of authority prevail. And why? Because everywhere, in the army, and in the Government, is lacking the nerve to enforce the performance of duty. * * *

(From the same, same date.)

We presume there is no one in this department to whom the condition of our present military organization is less satisfactory than to the General commanding. Probably there is no one so thoroughly aware of the lamentable disorganization that prevails in certain corps and sections of his command. Yet it would scarcely be fair to hold him responsible for this condition of things. His department has been newly turned into his hands, and many of the troops are new to him and to this department. They came to him under the command of imbeciles; he has received them, a herd of stragglers and outlaws. What has been done to eradicate this fatal evil we shall not stop to inquire. The time has been short to do much, and the forces have been much scattered. But the very last moments are arriving, when all must be done that can be done. The enemy does not intend to wait upon our leisure. And there is much to do.

MARRIED.

(Announcements of marriages should be paid for at the rate of 50 cents each.)

WENTZEL—BOGEN.—On the evening of the 12th inst., at the English Lutheran church, by the pastor, the Rev. Wm. H. Harrison, D. D., Major-General GEORGE WENTZEL to Miss LOUISA BOGEN, daughter of Peter Bogen, Esq., of Cincinnati, O.

HALL—BARRICK.—On Tuesday evening, Jan. 12th, at York street chapel, by Rev. James T. Hall, THOS. N. HALL, U. S. Navy, to Miss LOUISA BARRICK, both of Cincinnati, O. No cards.

GRAY—CRAGO.—At the residence of W. S. Barker, Esq., on the 11th inst., by the Rev. Mr. Paddock, Adjutant J. S. GRAY, Third Kentucky Cavalry, to Miss MARTHA CRAGO, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

CURTIS—DODGE.—At Salem, Mass., 1st inst., by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, HALL CURTIS, M. D., of Boston, late Surgeon of the Second Massachusetts heavy artillery, to Miss ALICE DODGE, daughter of John H. Slisbee, Esq., of Salem.

RINEHART—GAINES.—At Oregon City, Oregon, October 17th, 1864, by Rev. C. C. Stratton, Captain WILLIAM V. RINEHART, First Oregon Cavalry, to Miss AMANDA S. GAINES, of Dayton.

DIED.

DUNCAN.—At Knoxville, Tenn., on the 11th November, by drowning in the Holston River, Lieutenant ORIN C. DUNCAN, of the First U. S. Heavy Artillery (formerly member of the Twenty-third Regiment N. G. S. N. Y.), and only son of Samuel and Lucinda Duncan, of Brooklyn, N. Y., in the 23d year of his age.

GRISON.—Killed at his gun, in action, on board the United States steamer *Massachusetts*, at Fort Fisher, North Carolina, December 25th, 1864, JOHN SERGEANT GRISON, eldest son of George and Mercy B. Grison, of Philadelphia, in the 27th year of his age.

WELLS.—On Tuesday, Jan. 10th, at Point of Rocks, on the Connecticut River, LAWRENCE WELLS, Lieutenant-Colonel and 1st U. S. C. T., aged 31 years.

HAYNES.—In Brooklyn, on Saturday, Jan. 14th, of disease contracted in the Army, HENRY C. HAYNES (formerly Jr. First Lieutenant Fourth Maine Battery) second son of the Rev. D. C. and Lydia Haynes, in the 23d year of his age.

WENFLE.—Killed in action, on board the U. S. S. *Jennette*, Dec. 24th, 1864, Lieutenant DAVID D. WENFLE, U. S. N., aged 24 years.

FILE.—Killed in action, on board the U. S. S. *Jennette*, Dec. 24th, 1864, Second Lieutenant JAMES FILE, U. S. Marine Corps, aged 24 years.

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Secretary of War.
Hon. Edwin M. Stanton—2d floor War Department.
Assistant Secretaries of War.
Hon. P. H. Watson and Hon. C. A. Dana—Office, 3d floor War Department.

General-in-Chief.
Office—in charge of Captain G. K. Lee, Assistant Adjutant General, 29 Winder's Building, 2d floor.

Chief of Staff.
Major General H. W. Halleck—cor. F and 17th streets.

Adjutant General.
Brigadier General L. Thomas—War Department.

Bureau of Military Justice.
Brigs. Gen. James H. Holt, Judge Advocate General Winder's Building, corner F and 17th streets.

Judges Advocate.
Major L. C. Turner, Judge Advocate, Department of Washington, No. 339 17th street.

Theophilus Gaines, Major and Judge Advocate, 22d Army Corps—354 14th street.

Solicitor of the War Department.
Hon. William Whiting—Rooms Nos. 29 and 31, War Department.

Inspector General's Department.
337 17th street.

Bureau of the Signal Corps.
Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. L. Nicodemus, Acting Chief Signal Officer—Office, 167 F street.

Provost Marshal General.
Brigs. Gen. James B. Fry—War Department.

Quartermaster's Department.
Brigs. Gen. James B. Fry—War Department.

Brigadier General D. H. Rucker, Depot Quartermaster—Office, corner G and 15th streets.

Captain J. M. Moore, Chief Assistant Quartermaster—Office, corner F and 21st streets.

Colonel M. I. Lodington, Chief Quartermaster Department of Washington—Office, 534, 536, 538, and 540 14th street, near New York avenue.

Captain H. L. Thayer, Assistant Quartermaster Volunteer—Office, 232 G street.

Captain D. G. Thomas, Military Store Keeper—304 H, near 17th street.

Subsistence Department.
Brigadier General A. B. Eaton, Commissary General—La Fayette square, corner H street and Jackson Place.

Lieutenant-Colonel G. Bell, Depot Commissary—Office, 223 G street.

Medical Department.
Brigadier General J. K. Barnes, Surgeon General—Office, corner 12th street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

Lieutenant-Colonel John N. Cuyler, Acting Medical Inspector General, U. S. Army—Office, No. 302 H street, corner of 17th street, first floor.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Wilson, Medical Inspector U. S. Army, Inspector of the Army of the Potomac—Office, at Rev. Dr. Samson's Columbia College, Washington, D. C.

Surgeon R. O. Abbott, Medical Director, Department of Washington—122 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Surgeon C. Sulzberg, to attend officers of the regular Army—corner of 14th and G streets.

Surgeon Thomas Antisell, to attend officers of the Volunteer Army—Office in a frame building on the space between 19th and 18th streets, south side Pennsylvania Avenue.

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"Third. How did the weight of the cartridge-box affect them in comparison with the old?

"Fourth. Could they use their arms with more freedom?

"Fifth. Could they breathe with greater ease, and longer respiration?

"Sixth. Was the box in the way, or uncomfortable lying down?

"To these questions the following answers were given:

"First. In no case was there any chafing or un-

comfortableness from the straps on the shoulders, nor did it make them feel anything like so warm.

"Second. The weight of the box was not felt on the stomach, and no pain.

"Third. That the weight of the cartridge-box was not felt, and that they would rather carry one hundred rounds in this way than forty in the old.

"Fourth. The arms are entirely free, as much as if they had nothing on.

"Fifth. The box can at all times be thrown open, and the fullest respiration can be obtained, the lungs having free scope.

"Sixth. The box was not in the way, and they could sleep comfortably with their accoutrements on.

"They are far more convenient in action. During the campaign my men were, from the sixth of May until the twentieth, without having their accoutrements off, day or night, but once; no complaints were heard of sore shoulders, breasts or stomachs, and men ruptured found them beyond all comparison easier than the old. The box does not interfere with the handling of the piece. I find that these accoutrements are scattered through this division—men throw away the old, and took these from the dead and wounded on the field. This one thing speaks more for them than any and all I can say."

There are no knapsack straps under the arms. The sack is kept up on the shoulders and cannot settle into the hollow of the back. There is no broad cross belt over the breast, so oppressive and hot, with the old style.

Two or three lives were saved in one regiment during the Wilderness Campaign by the box in front stopping the balls.

In the Cavalry the weight of the Ammunition, Pistol and Sabre is all borne on the shoulders, and the waist belt is loose, thus removing the chief cause of rupture and piles, the two most dreadful afflictions of the cavalrman. Ruptured men can wear these accoutrements with ease.

Commanders of regiments newly equipping, and of regiments whose accoutrements are worn out, should make requisition for these accoutrements and knapsacks, and thus confer the greatest good upon their men. Soldiers ask your officers to draw these accoutrements for issue. Send for book giving full description and the opinion of Lieut.-Gen. Grant and other distinguished officers.

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